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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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the 27th Flame Tree
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INSIDE



Path of Destruction

Three tornadoes ripped through Virginia on Monday, leaving behind a 25-mile trail of destruction and more than 200 injured.

NATION...Page 15



Innocent Victims

An explosion shattered a tiny Gaza Strip house as Israeli troops battled militants, killing a woman and four of her children.

WORLD...Page 17

Acoustic Nights

It was Acoustic Nights at Club V and the crowd was in a mellow mood, kicking back with a Carlsberg bottle in hand.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

'CUC to suspend PR plant operations by next month' PAGE 3
Groundbreaking for Tinian Resort moved to June. PAGE 3

Missing Tinian fisherman found



OLDEST PERSON IN THE MARIANAS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ninety-seven-year-old Elizabeth Matsunaga, the oldest person in the Marianas, gets a hug from fellow man'amko, Rosalia T. Sablan, 70, after the proclamation signing ceremony designating the month of May as Older Americans Month/Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tufeyy at the Aging Office in Garapan yesterday morning. See related story on Page 6.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Some 22 hours after being reported missing at sea, a Tinian fisherman was finally found yesterday afternoon, dehydrated but in stable condition.

Joseph M. Cruz, 41, was found by a Navy helicopter at 5pm in his vessel some 36 miles west of the Tinian Harbor, according to an e-mail notice sent

See MISSING on Page 4

NMI, American Samoa leaders ask for delay in wage hike or \$30M aid

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and American Samoa Rep. Eni Fa-leomavaega have asked the U.S. Congress to either delay the next

minimum wage hike or approve a \$30-million financial aid for both jurisdictions.

In a letter addressed to U.S. senators, the two officials reiterated their plea for Congress

See NMI on Page 4

Group looks at human trafficking in the NMI

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

A representative of Shared Hope International is now on island to do a study on human trafficking in the CNMI as part of a larger study on child sex trafficking and exploitation in 10 sites

See GROUP on Page 4

Labor slams resident status bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor, through its deputy secretary Cinta M. Kaipat, described Rep. Tina Sablan's bill that will grant resident status to long-time guest workers "a flawed and a special interest" legislation favoring only the alien workers.

See LABOR on Page 4



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Local

A. Samoa firm takes drastic steps to cope

A tuna cannery in American Samoa has announced drastic cost-cutting measures to cope with minimum wage hikes.

StarKist Seafood, one of the two major canneries in Ameri-

can Samoa, said that initial measures are being taken to eliminate all discretionary overhead, wage, and benefits. Changes are also being applied to operations and manufacturing.

Under the company's new policy, all vacation and holiday pay will be calculated at the 2006 wage rate. Salary overtime policy will be revised and limited to lower job grades only.

All night transportation and bus subsidy will also be eliminated.

Simultaneously, StarKist also proposed a new state tax structure which, the company said, reflects the tax scale already provided to others doing business in American Samoa, as well as the deteriorating economy.

The company added, however, that the proposed tax agreement does not guarantee the cannery will continue operations and sustain employment at current levels.

StarKist said that under current conditions, the company can only agree to a required tonnage of 238 tons per day and 1,485 employees. This is a reduction from the 450 tons per day and 2,520 employees provided in the expiring agreement between StarKist and the American Samoa government.

StarKist added that it cannot agree to any further capital investments as part of the tax structure.

"In proposing this local tax structure and implementing the other cost controlling measures,

our goal is to minimize disruption in hope that the Congress will act quickly and reverse the dangerous course of the island's economy. However, should the current trajectory continue, we anticipate additional measures will become necessary," StarKist said.

StarKist's response to the minimum wage hike mirrors actions taken by local employers after the first 50-cent increase was implemented in July 2007. Both the CNMI and American Samoa governments are lobbying Congress to postpone the second increase set for May 25, 2008.

In a letter to U.S. senators, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and American Samoa Rep. Eni Faalomavaega outlined their concerns about further minimum wage hikes.

"Simply put, the fragile private sectors of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands cannot support additional costs when we are already in economic decline," they said.

In the CNMI, they noted, the local government is reeling from

a loss of 35 percent of its revenue over the last two years, as garment factories have shut down and moved on to cheaper locations. Out of 34 factories, only seven remain and most will close after the next minimum wage increase.

The decline of the garment industry is compounded by a struggling tourism industry, exorbitant power costs that have caused the exodus of many citizens and businesses, and massive job loss from government downsizing.

In American Samoa, further escalations of the minimum wage could be the loss of its only industry, as tuna cannery operations will move to foreign jurisdictions where labor costs less. Presently, more than 80 percent of the private sector economy is dependent on two canneries, which employ more than 74 percent of the workforce.

With the loss of the canneries, American Samoa expects to lose substantial shipping schedules. This, in turn, will likely result in higher costs of goods for all residents on the islands. (Agnes E. Donato)

CNMI Teen Talk takes part in Youth for Youth confab

The CNMI Teen Talk Youth Group is finally back on island after spending the weekend in Guam to participate in the 18th Annual Youth for Youth Conference.

According to Teen Talk adviser and chaperone to this year's event, Sharleen Crisostimo, the students had loads of fun learning about topics on health and wellness, substance abuse prevention, conflict resolution and stress management.

"These amazing students are great examples of leadership, service, and volunteerism," Crisostimo said.

According to adult registration chair Athena Duenas, students who attended the conference learned how to use powerful influence and creativity to turn peer pressure from a negative into a positive.

The conference also provided a clear message to teens, saying that it is their responsibility as teens to say "no" to drugs, tobacco, violence and other forms of negative behavior.

Crisostimo said Teen Talk and their advisors would like to thank PTI for its donation of phone cards and support.

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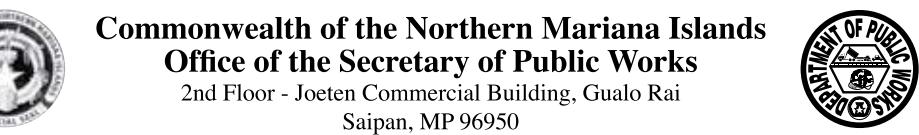
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ADDENDUM NO. 1 April 28, 2008

702 CIP Project Managers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota DPW08-RFQ-019

1. General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution.

2. Sealed Proposal Due: Marked "DPW08-RFQ-019" Proposal Submission due on 10:00 a.m. local time April 30, 2008, is changed to read **10:00 a.m. local time May 14, 2008**. For bidders located outside the CNMI sealed Proposal must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal services of a foreign country no later than **May 14, 2008**, and must be received no later than **May 23, 2008**.

All other requirements of the Request for Qualification of the project package shall remain as stated.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
MELL SENOKO	003E	4/19 SAT	4/17 THU	4/7 MON	4/24 THU	4/8 TUE	4/12 SAT	4/25 FRI	4/21 MON	4/20 SUN	4/15 TUE	4/6 SUN	4/21 MON	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	4/26 SAT	4/24 THU	4/14 MON	5/1 THU	4/15 TUE	4/19 SAT	5/2 FRI	4/28 MON	4/27 SUN	4/22 TUE	4/13 SUN	4/28 MON	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/3 SAT	5/1 THU	4/21 MON	5/8 THU	4/22 TUE	4/26 SAT	5/9 FRI	5/5 MON	5/4 SUN	4/29 TUE	4/20 SUN	5/5 MON	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/10 SAT	5/8 THU	4/28 MON	5/15 THU	4/29 TUE	5/3 SAT	5/16 FRI	5/12 MON	5/11 SUN	5/6 TUE	4/27 SUN	5/12 MON	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/17 SAT	5/15 THU	5/5 MON	5/22 THU	5/6 TUE	5/10 SAT	5/23 FRI	5/19 MON	5/18 SUN	5/13 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/19 MON	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	017E	5/24 SAT	5/22 THU	5/12 MON	5/29 THU	5/13 TUE	5/17 SAT	5/30 FRI	5/26 MON	5/25 SUN	5/30 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/26 MON	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
MELL SENOKO	003E	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/3 SAT	SKIP	5/7 WED	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/20 TUE	5/18 SUN	5/21 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/14 WED	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/27 TUE	5/25 SUN	5/28 WED
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/17 SAT	SKIP	5/21 WED	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/3 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/4 WED
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/28 WED	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/10 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/11 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	5/31 SAT	SKIP	6/4 WED	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/17 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/18 WED
STADT HAMBURG	017E	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/24 TUE	6/22 SUN	6/25 WED

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'CUC to suspend PR plant operations by next month'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. plans to suspend operations of the Puerto Rico power plant by next month, a lawmaker said.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz said

CUC expects to add 15 megawatts to its current capacity as engines get repaired toward the end of May 2008.

The additional capacity will allow CUC to stop operating Power Plant IV, which has high-speed generators consuming a lot of fuel.

According to Dela Cruz, CUC spends about \$2 million a month on fuel and lubricants for Power Plant IV alone.

By putting the Puerto Rico power plant on standby and using the refurbished, more fuel-efficient engines at the Lower Base plant, CUC hopes to save

about \$1 million in fuel costs.

"CUC will still have to buy diesel for the repaired engines. But there will be substantial savings," Dela Cruz said.

CUC will also continue to pay about \$300,000 a month to Pacific Marine and Industrial Corporation, which runs the power plant. The utility is bound by its contract with PMIC until 2016.

The utility says it has faced a monthly shortfall of about \$1 million for fuel due to the power rates rollback and the rising cost of fuel.

Those regulations expired last month. Currently, CUC is back to charging residential customers 17.6 cents per kWh of power consumed.

emergency regulations empowering the utility to adjust the power rates depending on fuel prices.

A proposal to suspend the rollback law is pending in the Legislature.

Groundbreaking rites for Tinian Oceanview Resort reset to June

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Instead of holding it during the Tinian San Jose Fiesta on May 4, Bridge Investment Group has moved the groundbreaking of its \$40-\$60 million Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project to late June.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, the company's vice president for CNMI operations, said the postponement was due to delays in the finalization of its master site permit. He said the document is expected to be submitted to Coastal Resource Management at the end of May.

"So our official groundbreaking ceremony for the main facility will occur after approval of the master site permit, which we expect to be in late June," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

While the groundbreaking for the casino facility was postponed, Bridge Investment will move ahead with a smaller groundbreaking when it starts construction of its staff housing next week.

Mendiola-Long said they could have begun the construction earlier but the company ran into some logistics problems because cargo ship schedules between Saipan and Tinian are only every 14 days.

"Therefore, the soonest we can get our containers to Tinian from Saipan is on May 3, which means we cannot clear Customs and Quarantine until Monday at the soonest

and therefore not be able to start construction on the staff housing until after that. Our containers arrived on Saipan on April 26 and we cannot get it to Tinian until May 3."

Mendiola-Long said that Bridge Investment has two 40-foot containers and two 20-foot containers waiting on Saipan for the vessel to go to Tinian.

Bridge Investment plans to construct a 301-room hotel and casino resort on Tinian as well as 268 condominium rooms in the CNMI's gambling capital. It will be built on 75,000 square meters of land that the company has leased for 55 years.

Bridge Investment has contracted Herman B. Cabrera and Associates as its architectural and design firm, the law office of Mailman & Kara, certified public accountant Bruce McMillan,

Marianas Development Corp. as its grounds maintenance firm,

Power Buildings International as its local construction firm, FPA Inc. for ground clearing, and Marianas Environmental Services to work on its master site permit, environmental study, and prepare its report for the Historic Preservation Office.

Security Title, Inc. serves as Bridge Investment's escrow company that handles the condominium sales escrow account through the Bank of Guam.

Mendiola-Long said that they are currently negotiating with the BoG to offer mortgages on their condominiums to foreign investors.

Bridge Investment is a company formed by U.S.-mainland based investors Erik F. Wang, Rudy Pamintuan, Howard Li, Ken Wong, Akshay Desai, and Rocky Li.

The company said it also has offices in five different countries—Japan, Korea, China, U.S., and Russia.

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MISSING**From Page 1**

by Lt. Elizabeth Buendia of the Coast Guard Command Center Guam.

"He is in stable condition, although dehydrated. He will be transported to [the] Saipan hospital for medical evaluation," said Buendia.

"This positive outcome resulted from the outstanding search effort by the Navy, Coast Guard, and Department of Pub-

lic Safety Saipan, to cover a total search area of over 7,263 square miles," she added.

Buendia did not offer additional details relating to the circumstances of Cruz's mishap at sea.

The water and aerial search had been ongoing since Monday night. Rescue teams from the U.S. Coast Guard-Guam, Tinian Department of Public Safety Boating Safety, Saipan Boating Safety, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority helped in the water search for Cruz. The U.S. Navy's Hilo chopper was help-

ing in the aerial search.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that Cruz was last seen operating a 17-foot blue and white bay liner boat bearing the number TCM-034.PU. "He was last seen wearing blue short pants and a black t-shirt," Ogumoro said.

Tinian DPS first received the report of the missing fisherman on Monday at 7:20pm.

Preliminary investigation showed that Cruz had dropped off the three fishermen on Goat Island at 11am that day and had

headed back to Tinian.

The group agreed that at 1pm that day, Cruz would pick them up. When Cruz did not show up, one of the three fishermen called Tinian DPS for help.

Tinian Boating Safety officers subsequently launched the *Zodiac II* rescue boat and headed to Goat Island, where they picked up the three fishermen. Ogumoro said all three fishermen were found in good condition.

Boating Safety officers searched for Cruz's vessel, but could not find it.

NMI**From Page 1**

to postpone the next minimum wage increase scheduled for May 25, 2008.

"Simply put, the fragile private sectors of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands cannot support additional costs when we are already in economic decline," Fatial and Faleomavaega said in a letter to senators Edward Kennedy, Daniel K. Inouye, Jeff Bingaman, and Daniel Akaka.

The pair noted that the impact study by the U.S. Department of

Labor supports their position.

Fatial and Faleomavaega also proposed a backup plan should the wage hike take effect. They asked the senators to support a \$30-million financial assistance to be shared by the CNMI and American Samoa. They proposed that the funding provision be included in the emergency supplemental appropriation bill now being drafted in both houses of Congress.

Fatial and Faleomavaega said the money would be spent on "investments in critical areas that have the potential to bring multiplying economic benefits."

They identified the areas where the money could be

spent: transportation projects, measures to bring down the cost of fuel and stabilize shipping, job retraining, emergency financial relief to affected employers, efficiency studies for local governments, and funding for essential public services.

In the CNMI, temporary support could also be given to the visitor industry to help bring new money into the islands.

"Inclusion of this language in the Emergency Supplemental this year and every year thereafter will give American Samoa and the CNMI an opportunity to provide an essential bridge to sustainability that our communities need in the coming years until such time

as Congress reviews the economic impact of further increases in minimum wage," said Fatial and Faleomavaega.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is aware of the funding request, they added.

Fatial and Faleomavaega wrote a separate letter to Rep. George Miller, a staunch defender of the scheduled increase in the minimum wage. They asked Miller to support legislation that would hold off, or offset, further wage hikes.

"We appreciate your leadership in making sure all workers receive decent wages and we stand with you, in principle. However, because there is no

Man gets 90 days for assaulting park ranger

Investor sues firm over \$190K rubber check

An investor has filed a lawsuit in federal court against a company that issued her a bouncing check in the amount of \$190,000.

Hye Lin Shin, a Korean, sued You Rim Corp. for conversion and bad checks.

Shin asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the corporation to pay her the full amount of the dishonored check plus damages, interest, and back charges. Shin, through lawyer David G. Banes, also asked for attorney's fees, court costs, and damages.

In the complaint filed on Monday, Banes stated that You Rim Corp. wrote Shin a check in the amount of \$190,000 dated Aug. 5, 2007.

The following day, Banes said, Shin deposited the check, but after a few days, the bank returned the check as unpayable due to insufficient funds.

On March 24, 2008, the lawyer said, Shin wrote to You Rim Corp., demanding it pay the face amount of the dishonored check, together with such charges as may be imposed by the bank, within 30 days. Banes said that You Rim Corp. received the demand letter on April 2, 2008.

The company, through its agent, refused to pay, he said.

"[The] defendant, by failing to pay Shin the full amount of the check and by failing to have sufficient funds in its bank account to pay the check, has wrongfully taken plaintiff's property and converted it to its own use," he asserted.

The defendant, Banes said, is liable to Shin for the amount owing upon the check, plus bank charges and other allowable damages, pre-judgment interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum, plus attorney's fees and treble damages.

The lawsuit did not mention why the check was issued to Shin in the first place. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

The federal court yesterday imposed a 90-day prison term on a man who assaulted a park ranger at the Outer Cove Marina area.

After serving his sentence, Prisco Onglung will be placed on one year of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said that among the conditions of his supervised release is that Onglung shall provide advance notice by telephone to the American Memorial Park's personnel of his intention to enter the park for the duration of U.S. Park Ranger Sam Martinsen's tour of duty.

The judge ordered Onglung to pay a \$202 restitution to

the U.S. Department of Labor Worker's Compensation Program. He also required the defendant to pay a \$25 special assessment fee.

Munson remanded Onglung to the custody of the U.S. Marshal pending the outcome of defendant's outstanding warrants of arrest issued by the CNMI Superior Court in other cases.

The judge said that if the defendant is released due to a resolution of his cases with the CNMI court, then he shall turn himself in to the U.S. Marshal on May 2, Friday.

The defendant and counsel Kelley Butcher signed a plea

agreement with the U.S. government in December 2007. Onglung pleaded guilty to the lesser-included offense of assault on a federal officer.

According to the plea agreement, on Sept. 12, 2007, the defendant struck Martinsen, a law enforcement park ranger of the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, in the head. Martinsen suffered injury to the head, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Martinsen was on duty at the time at the American Memorial Park and was attempting to issue a citation to Onglung. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Munson

Onglung was charged with assault on a federal officer with bodily injury.

Martinsen stated in his report while he was on patrol at the Outer Cove Marina within the boundaries of the American Memorial Park, he saw a pickup truck driven by Onglung.

Martinsen said he had given Onglung several warnings in the past for operating his vehicle without a current CNMI driver's license.

He said the defendant was driving faster than the posted speed limit of 10 miles per hour so he turned around and followed him to a parking lot where he tried to issue a citation to the defendant when the attack happened. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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May as Mes Man'Amko honors the elderly

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
 rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

In efforts to educate the younger generation on the wisdom of senior citizens, the Aging Center will be holding a monthlong af-

fair in celebration of the Older Americans Month.

Tuufey, or Older Americans Month, an annual event that is celebrated across the United States and its territories.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela endorsed the occasion yesterday in a proclamation signing ceremony that designated May as Mes Man'Amko/Maramual

Tudela said he has given his heartfelt support to the program for the past seven years because he knows that the elderly deserve care and support. "Without them, their children and children's children will not be who they are and what they are today."

"By age, I am more than qualified to be with you in the program, and maybe after retirement and at the end of my term next year, I will be joining you all right here in this building," Tudela said in a speech addressing the senior citizens and Office of Aging.

Acting Secretary Melvin Faisao said that one of his greatest joys working in DCCA is spending time with the island's senior citizens.

"They share wisdom and knowledge on every subject you can imagine and they are living testaments to the greatness that we come from," he said.

Aging Office director Howard



Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela signs the proclamation designating May as Older Americans Month while proclamation readers Christiana Michael, Susana Santos, Joaquina Kaniki and Ma-namko' Tuufey Association chair Franciso Reyes look on at the Aging Office in Garapan yesterday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

I. Macaranas said that senior citizens are full of history, wisdom and knowledge and that he finds himself learning from them.

The CNMI is home to over 2,000 citizens age 60 or older. An average of 90 to 100 senior citizens visit the Aging Center on a daily basis.

The Aging Center has lined up an array of activities for the whole month, including the coronation of the 2008 Mes Man'Amko King and Queen on May 30.

The proclamation was read in three separate languages: English by Christiana Michael, Chamorro

by Susana Santos, and Carolinian by Jauquina Kaniki.

The proclamation stated that is the responsibility of the community "to work together and prepare for changing older adult populations by modernizing systems of care and providing consumers with more control over their lives."

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting for **Thursday, May 1, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II OLD BUSINESS

- Home Loan Program Matters

III EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

V MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
 Chairman, Board of Trustees

Subway helps send NMI reps to nat'l Mathcounts

Subway Investments Corp. has donated \$1,000 to Mathcounts to help defray the cost of sending the top four students who will represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the national competition in Denver, CO.

Martha Camacho, Mathcounts state coordinator said she is grateful for the support from Subway. She said Subway

has been a consistent provider of financial donations to Mathcounts through the years.

"We appreciate this. We are very thankful," Camacho said. "It's nice to have some people in the community helping us, and Subway has been very generous," she added.

Marcos Fong, Subway managing director, said the company is always happy to support Mathcounts and similar educational programs.

"One of the priorities of our Group is to support the education of our next generation. This is one of the ways we give back to the community's educational efforts," Fong said.

The donation was made on April 25 at the Subway office in Gualo Rai, during which Camacho presented a Mathcounts certificate of recognition to Subway.

Subway, along with Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. and Foremost Foods provided snacks and drinks for the participants to the chapter

and CNMI-wide competitions held respectively on Feb. 16 and March 15 at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

Last year, Subway also donated \$1,000 to Mathcounts, which was used to likewise help pay for the cost of sending four local students to the national competition held in Texas in May.

Jennifer Sablan, Mathcounts secretary, said the four students who would be competing in the national event this year were Jessica Im Lee, 14, of Marianas Baptist Academy; Sung Hoon Ham, 14, and also of MBA; Feng Liang Lizama, 13, of Mount Carmel School; and Hyeon Joon Jun, 13, of Saipan International School.

The students would be accompanied by their coach, Ramiro H. Trinidad, MBA principal.

She said the team would leave the CNMI on May 6; the competition is scheduled for May 9 to 11. Sablan said the air fare and accommodation of the team were estimated to cost \$15,000. (PR)

Europe Highlights

Jour 2008

France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.
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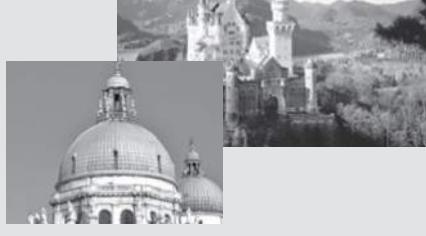
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Subway Investments Corp. donates \$1,000 to Mathcounts for the national competition. In photo are from left, Jennifer Sablan, Mathcounts secretary; Martha Camacho, Mathcounts state coordinator for the CNMI; Gary Schiff, Subway-Guam director of business development; and Marcos Fong, Subway managing director.

High Court affirms alien's drug-related conviction

The Commonwealth Supreme Court joined with a majority of federal and state courts of the United States in holding that deportation is a collateral consequence of a criminal conviction. As such, attorneys need not inform alien defendants of the potential immigration consequences of their guilty pleas.

In August 2002, Esterita Shimabukuro, a citizen of the Philippines and lawful permanent resident of the United States, and her husband were arrested and charged with a number of drug-related offenses after law enforcement officers searched their home and found a large cache of methamphetamine. Shimabukuro faced a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$18,000.

Before trial, Shimabukuro pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance and served an 18-month prison term pursuant to a plea agreement. The charges levied against her husband were dismissed a day after she pleaded guilty. Nearly two years later, Shimabukuro traveled to Hawaii where the Immigration and

Naturalization Service initiated deportation proceedings against Shimabukuro under federal immigration law because of her conviction in the CNMI.

To avoid deportation, Shimabukuro sought to withdraw her guilty plea with the Superior Court by claiming ineffective assistance of counsel. She argued that her attorney never told her that she might be deported if she pleads guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance. The Superior Court denied her motion to withdraw her guilty plea.

On appeal, the Supreme Court affirmed Shimabukuro's conviction after finding that she was not denied effective assistance of counsel. The court ruled that deportation is a collateral consequence of a guilty plea. As a result, the court determined that the performance of her attorney, Vicente T. Salas, did fall below an objective standard of reasonableness because he was not required to inform her of the collateral consequences of her guilty plea. Regardless, the court noted that Salas did advise Shimabukuro that she might be deported if she pleads guilty.

The Supreme Court opinion was authored by Justice Alejandro C. Castro, who was joined by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, and Justice John A. Manglona.



Hawthorne Pacific Corp. has an immediate opening for a **PARTS COUNTER PERSON** in our Saipan branch. Candidate would be responsible for parts counter sales, warehousing, receiving, inventory control, and cash sales. Experience in parts counter sales, warehousing, computer based inventory and invoicing, and understanding of accounting is highly desired. Excellent communication and organizational skills is a must. If you're looking for an industry leader to work for, look no further apply today with us online at www.hawthornehiring.com.EEO/AA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
 Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF ITS QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

On April 28, 2008, Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort withdrew its application for a Qualifying Certificate filed with the Commonwealth Development Authority on March 12, 2008.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
 Acting Chief Executive Officer

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ESGR underscores need for USERRA law

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Guam Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Ombudsman Field Committee was on island last week to brief the community on the importance of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

ESGR Field Committee director David Sablan Jr. said he has been receiving reports that some government employees who were deployed are not getting their military services credited to their government service for seniority and pension benefits. There were also reports of some service members returning from deployment and finding out that they don't have a job or they are given a job at the same rate while the rest were given increases while he was away.

Sablan said such are examples violations of the USERRA law, which protects the jobs of service members that go on deployment.

"Because of the global war on terror that we're in, a lot of employers are seeing many of their employees going for long lengths of time for military service. When we were on peace mode, we only had to deal with weekend drill and once in a while, two-week trainings," Sablan said.

These days, though, "we're seeing six months, one year, 18 months or two years or more at a time. The USERRA basically protects the jobs of these individual while on deployment and when they return they must have their jobs back and not only at the level they left their jobs, but at the level that they would have earned had they continued to stay on the job," Sablan said.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ESGR ombudsman David Sablan delivers his presentation during a briefing on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Federal Law, USERRA at the Azucena I of Fiesta Resort and Spa Thursday last week.

The role of the ESGR Ombudsman, on the other hand, is to view the misunderstandings and miscommunications between employer and employee and apply the USERRA law to the situation and inform both employer and employee so that they can resolve the situation according to the law.

Nationwide, the ESGR Ombudsman was able to resolve 95 percent of misunderstandings or disputes raised by employers.

"Only 5 percent go to next level, which is going to court for resolution," said Sablan.

He said he visited the Army Reserve Center Wednesday afternoon last week and was told that there are at least three service members raising issues about their employers violating the USERRA law.

He advises these individuals to fill out Form 100 and submit

it to the CNMI ESGR Office for case assignment. The form will be routed to Sablan by Washington D.C. where the case is filed. Sablan will then get in touch with the service member and the employer to confirm both sides of their stories and try to get them to understand the USERRA law and then have the service member and the employer resolve the situation. Otherwise it will head to court for resolution.

According to Sablan, the USERRA law is needed because the nation has an all-volunteer force. Service members often worry about their civilian jobs or family back home, so that they cannot focus on military mission. In such a situation, "no one will volunteer."

"In order to have an all-volunteer force and in order for our service members to fight for our

country and freedom, Congress intended for this law to be liberally interpreted on the side of service members," Sablan said.

He added that, "Congress intended for service members who live private lives to go into the service of our country and put their lives on the line. Congress intended for these individuals to have special privileges and rights different from other employees in our organization or companies, just as we have to give special privileges to the handicapped."

Sablan said the global war on terror has really highlighted the need for the USERRA law.

"We must look up to these service members for their sense of service and duty to protect the lifestyle that we have come to enjoy. ESGR was especially enacted by Secretary of Defense to support our troops," Sablan said.

Demapan graduates from AIT training

Angel Aldan Demapan, the medical referral coordinator of the Hawaii Medical Referral Office, was among the 111 soldiers who successfully completed their Advanced Individual Training and graduated from the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School Logistics Training Department at Fort Lee, VA on April 9, 2008.

Demapan, a Unit Supply Specialist – 92Y, P Co., 266 Quartermaster Battalion, went through two months of intensive tactical and physical military training, preparing him to serve in the Hawaii Army National Guard. During AIT Training, Demapan was unanimously voted by his peers as the soldier who brought the most motivation to their platoon and was also selected as the lead cadence caller for platoon marches.

After enlisting in the Hawaii Army National Guard in 2007, Demapan completed 10 weeks of basic combat training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Montana, as a member of Bravo Co. 1/48th Infantry Battalion.

While training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Demapan also coordinated four wall mural projects in platoon battle bay and became qualified as a combat life saver. He graduated from basic training on

Feb. 14, 2008, then immediately flew to Fort Lee, Virginia, for AIT training. Although enlisted under the Hawaii Army National Guard, whenever referred to as "from Hawaii", Demapan was quick to explain his origins and provide a little history and plug for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Demapan is the son of Rosario B. Aldan and the late Juan Deleon Guerrero of Dandan, Saipan. He graduated from the Northern Marianas College in 2001 and will now enroll in the University of Hawaii's ROTC Simultaneous Membership Program to work towards getting commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He returned to Honolulu after his graduation and is currently back at work eager to continue serving the CNMI through the facilitation of the Medical Referral Program in Hawaii.

"Angel Demapan joins the ranks of many of our young men and women from the Northern Marianas who volunteer to serve the people of the United States and to safeguard our freedom," said Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio. "I congratulate and extend my sincerest appreciation to PFC Demapan for his sense of service, dedication, and patriotism as a soldier in our nation's Army." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Angel Aldan Demapan poses in front of the Capitol Building.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 30, 1999

Tourism slump eases

After showing a consistent decline since Asia's financial crisis begun in July 1997, the Marianas Visitors Authority revealed that visitor arrivals has finally showed a slight improvement in March with a two percent increase.

\$16 million PSS bond sold

After two years of delay, the Public School System, backed by the Commonwealth Development Authority, finally sold \$15.6 million worth of bonds, paving the way for the implementation of stalled construction projects for the education sector. The bond will match the local requirements for the funding of projects under the Section 702 of the Covenant which has been derailed by cash shortage.

EAGI: Confirmation of Teno nominee uncertain

A nominee for the board director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is facing Senate inquiry over potential violation of a law prohibiting government employees to seek a board position, according to senators. The individual, whom senators refused to name, is currently employed in the CNMI government. There are two people recently re-appointed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to the CUC board: Laura I. Manglona, representing Rota and Rosario M. Elameto, representing the Carolinians.

APRIL 30, 2001

Anti-drug inspection beefed up

The CNMI Division of Customs has stepped up its anti-drug campaign by increasing the number of personnel deployed in several ports of entry to conduct surveillance and inspection of baggage. On Tinian, customs officers are seen conducting random inspection on arriving passengers including visiting tourists to check hand-carry bags and packages for possible entry of illegal drugs on island.

House body reviewing anti-prostitution bill

The House Committee on Health and Welfare is now refining the amended version of the existing anti-sex trade law, which was conceived due to reports of widespread prostitution practices especially at the Western Garapan district. Rep. Malua T. Peter said her committee is strictly reviewing the proposed amendment to ensure that concerns raised by the Commonwealth's law enforcement agencies are properly addressed.

PSS pushes for career-driven high schools

Tossed with a relatively new concept, community members Saturday found themselves weighing the pros and cons of a Public School System move to implement a curriculum versus a district-driven attendance in Saipan's high schools. Some parents and public school faculty are apparently torn between stimulating the career interests of Saipan students amid persistent school busing problems.

APRIL 30, 2002

Seaweeds take toll on island's majestic seashore

As she walked near the pathway along Beach Road, Marcy, a Saipan resident, noticed the abundance of brownish plant-like stuff on the shallow waters of the beach. She quickly reacted with a grin and said, "Of course not!", when asked if she would like to swim there, which would have been refreshing on a hot, sunny day. "It looks dirty," she added.

Heinz cuts working hours of staff in wake of budget cuts

Setting the stage for the expected cutbacks in third and fourth quarter allotments, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider has disclosed that, starting yesterday, his office has begun instituting two-hour cuts in the working schedule of his staff, which means that his office will close by 2:30pm. In a general meeting held at the House chamber, Hofschneider also urged his fellow lawmakers to review their respective budgetary situations and implement the same cutbacks—whether a cut in the salaries or in the working hours of their personnel.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Noted storyteller Bill Grimmette portrays the late civil rights champion, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

5-day MLK Jr.'s Chautauqua program to begin next week

The NMI Council for the Humanities is sponsoring a five-day Chautauqua program featuring noted storyteller Bill Grimmette, who will portray the late civil rights champion, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

According to the Council's executive director, Paz C. Younis, Grimmette will perform at junior high and high school classrooms throughout the Commonwealth beginning on Monday, May 5.

He will also give evening performances on Saipan and Rota, which will be open to the general public.

Chautauqua is a living history program in which historic characters are brought to life by scholars who appear in costume and perform dramatic dialogs.

Younis noted that Grimmette's performances are a part of the Council's "We the People" grant program on civil rights funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. They follow on the heels of the recently commemorated 40th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination.

Grimmette is past president of the National Association of Black Storytellers and is a perennial performer with the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian Institution.

Interested individuals are invited to contact Council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming program. (PR)

Chinese visitors get a Guam preview

TUMON, GUAM—Visa applicants at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing will get a glimpse of Guam as they file the very paperwork that could bring them to the island to visit. Guam will be featured as one of the premiere U.S. destinations on a promotional DVD being created by the U.S. Commercial Service as part of a campaign to increase the number of visitors to the U.S. from China.

In response to the U.S. – China Group Leisure Travel Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2007, the number of Chinese travelers is expected to increase dramatically and to take advantage, the DVD showcasing U.S. locations, like Guam, will be played continuously in the waiting rooms to an audience of potential visitors.

U.S. Commercial Service expects to launch the promotional campaign in mid-May and it will run for six months. Guam is looking forward to receiving its share of new visitors from China who come the island to see all the wonderful sights from the video. (GVB)

Each video clip will be five

Guam Army Guard to deploy to Philippines

with the armed forces of the Philippines in the southern Philippines.

A majority of the soldiers have deployed before. For some, this is going to be their third deployment.

The platoon was mobilized for Active Federal Service on March 21, and conducted all of its post-mobilization training on Guam. Prior to its mobilization, the unit conducted about three weeks of pre-mobilization training on Guam and at Fort Magsaysay in the Philippines during Exercise Balikatan 2008.

While deployed, the soldiers will be providing security for a unit of the Special Operations Command-Pacific that is conducting civil-military operations and training

LTC Lance Patterson.

The total length of the deployment is about six months. Upon completion of its mission, the platoon is scheduled to redeploy back to Guam around November. The Guam National Guard is currently coordinating with U.S. Army Pacific to conduct demobilization of the unit on Guam.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment recently completed its fourth and last rotation of company-sized deployments to the Horn of Africa. The fourth rotation, Team Delta, mobilized in January and deployed to the Horn of Africa last April. The soldiers of Team Delta returned to Guam around the mid-part of April. About 140 soldiers returned with the unit.

The 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry also has another company, Team Alpha, currently deployed to Afghanistan. The unit, approximately 180 soldiers total, deployed to Afghanistan early February and is scheduled to return late November.

The Guam Army Guard also currently has a 16-man Embedded Training Team deployed to Afghanistan to assist in the training of the Afghan National Army and Police. That team is scheduled to deploy and demobilize this May. It has a second 14-man Embedded Training Team that deployed to Afghanistan in Feb.

The Guam National Guard is also a partner with the Philippines in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE OF ORDERS ENTERED LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008, first notice
Monday, May 5, 2008, second notice

PARTIES IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES: An order has been entered by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor in each of the labor cases and agency cases listed below. All claims, including all claims for money damages, all claims for eligibility for transfer, and all requests for the imposition of fines, have been adjudicated. If not previously served, all persons listed in this notice are served with notice of the issuance of the order as of the date of second publication. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A party in whose case an order has been issued by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or by mail on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Case No.	Party	Case No.	Party
CAC 04-035-07	American Lagente Corporation	LC 03-119	Marianas Garment MFG. Corp.
LC 06-336	American RF Corporation	LC 05-290	Marianas Garment MFG. Corp.
CAC 97-092	Amir	CAC 04-063-11	Marianas Hotel Services Co., Ltd.
LC 07-281	BFJ Corporation	LC 05-142	Maribeth Corporation
LC 05-353	BQF Services, Inc.	LC 05-146	Micro Pacific, Inc.
LC 07-283	BQF Services, Inc.	LC 05-003	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 06-215	Cabrera, Rosalie	LC 05-030	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
CAC 08-114-03	Cachuela, Marieta B.	LC 05-404	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 05-061	Cado, Marlene V.	LC 07-075	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
CAC 08-123-03	Castro, Dewayne P.	LC 07-111	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 06-220	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	LC 07-306	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 05-061	Dela Cruz, Dionesia S.	LC 06-310	MZ Corporation
LC 07-192	Dela Rosa, Elinor	LC 07-279	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 04-335	Dragon Corporation	LC 07-224	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-335	Dragon Corporation	LC 05-061	Pangelinan, Federico P. II
LC 07-323	Dragon Corporation	LC 07-227	Pangelinan, Mariano
LC 05-047	Far Ocean Corp. dba Diamond Karaoke	LC 06-215	Parial, Aurora
CAC 08-123-03	Gapas, Arsenio	LC 05-289	Park's Professional Corporation
LC 04-219	Gautam, Kamala	CAC 08-112-03	Piao Investment Corporation
CAC 08-128-03	Gonzales, Sheryl C.	LC 07-368	Printwell, Inc.
LC 05-350	Grace International, Inc.	LC 07-265	Ray's Lawn Care & Maintenance
LC 05-327	Greate Corporation	LC 05-112	Reyes, Ruth P. dba L Vira Fashion
LC 07-052	Guan, Yanwei	LC 05-051	Rifu Apparel, Inc.
LC 05-286	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	LC 05-098	RR Corporation
LC 05-288	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	CAC 08-114-03	Sablan, Vincent P.
LC 08-010	Jaung Sig Kim	LC 05-061	Sako Corporation
LC 07-274	K.S. Chang Corporation dba I Mart	CAC 08-117-03	Salalila, Juan B.
LC 07-337	Kaipat, Celina C.	LC 07-371	Santos, Lorylinda C.
LC 07-258	L & S Apparel	LC 07-334	Soleman dba Barracks Rental
LC 07-328	L & S Apparel	LC 06-357	Song Xu Development Corporation
LC 07-258	Li, Yuan Fu	LC 05-061	Taraya, Rosalinda R.
LC 07-328	Li, Yuan Fu	LC 05-131	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 05-069	Liya Import and Export Corp.	LC 05-082	United International Corporation
LC 06-238	Long Teng Corporation	LC 07-200	United International Corporation
CAC 98-101-04	Lozano, Nelia D. dba Seiko Employment Services	CAC 97-092	Victory Int'l Corporation
LC 07-150	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 06-345	Waivo Enterprises Corporation
LC 07-151	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 07-241	World Apparel, Inc.
LC 07-256	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 07-052	WZ Corporation
LC 07-257	LY&Z American Corporation	CAC 04-035-07	Xu, Jun
LC 07-258	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 06-345	Xu, Qian Jun
LC 07-259	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 07-052	Xu, Qianjun
LC 07-260	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 07-366	Yoo Sung Embroidery
LC 07-261	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 07-156	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-273	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 07-242	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-328	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 05-249	Zhang's Corporation
LC 07-365	LY&Z American Corporation	LC 05-082	Zhou, Hailan
CAC 08-077-03	Marianas Fast Food, Inc.		

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Real questions

After the Democratic slugfest also known as the Pennsylvania primary, many voters can no longer bear to listen to the candidates. Even some who became political junkies during this historic race have now tuned out the sniping over guns, bitterness, race, religion, geriatric radicals and other trivia. We pray the next president will not waste a millisecond thinking about many of the headline topics of the last month. All three candidates should challenge reporters who dwell on gossipy or tangential subjects to ask instead about issues voters care about—or should. Herewith are 10 questions the American people deserve to hear answered.

To Sen. John McCain:

1. Why did you skip the Senate vote on extending unemployment benefits for the jobless? Do you oppose extending unemployment and food stamp benefits?

2. You voted with Senate Republicans to block legislation that would have allowed workers belatedly discovering discrimination to file lawsuits, and said women living in poverty need more education and training to close the wage gap. Please explain how more education for the victims of discrimination would end the practice, and how you would pay for the training while keeping your promise not to raise taxes.

To Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton:

3. Now that the equal-pay legislation has failed, what would you do to ensure that women are not still averaging 77 percent of men's wages four years from now?

4. How would you stimulate this country out of its economic doldrums at the same time as you allow the Bush tax cuts to expire, thereby sharply raising taxes for some?

5. Some warn that pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq in 2009 may trigger a regional war, drawing Iran, Saudi Arabia and even Turkey into a weakened state. Are there any circumstances under which you would halt U.S. troop withdrawals—or order more troops into Iraq?

6. You have criticized President Bush's expansion of executive power. Detail for us how you intend to legally forbid yourself—and your successors—from using signing statements to alter legislation. Don't tell us that your judgment will be better than Bush's, so not to worry. Give us specifics.

To all three candidates:

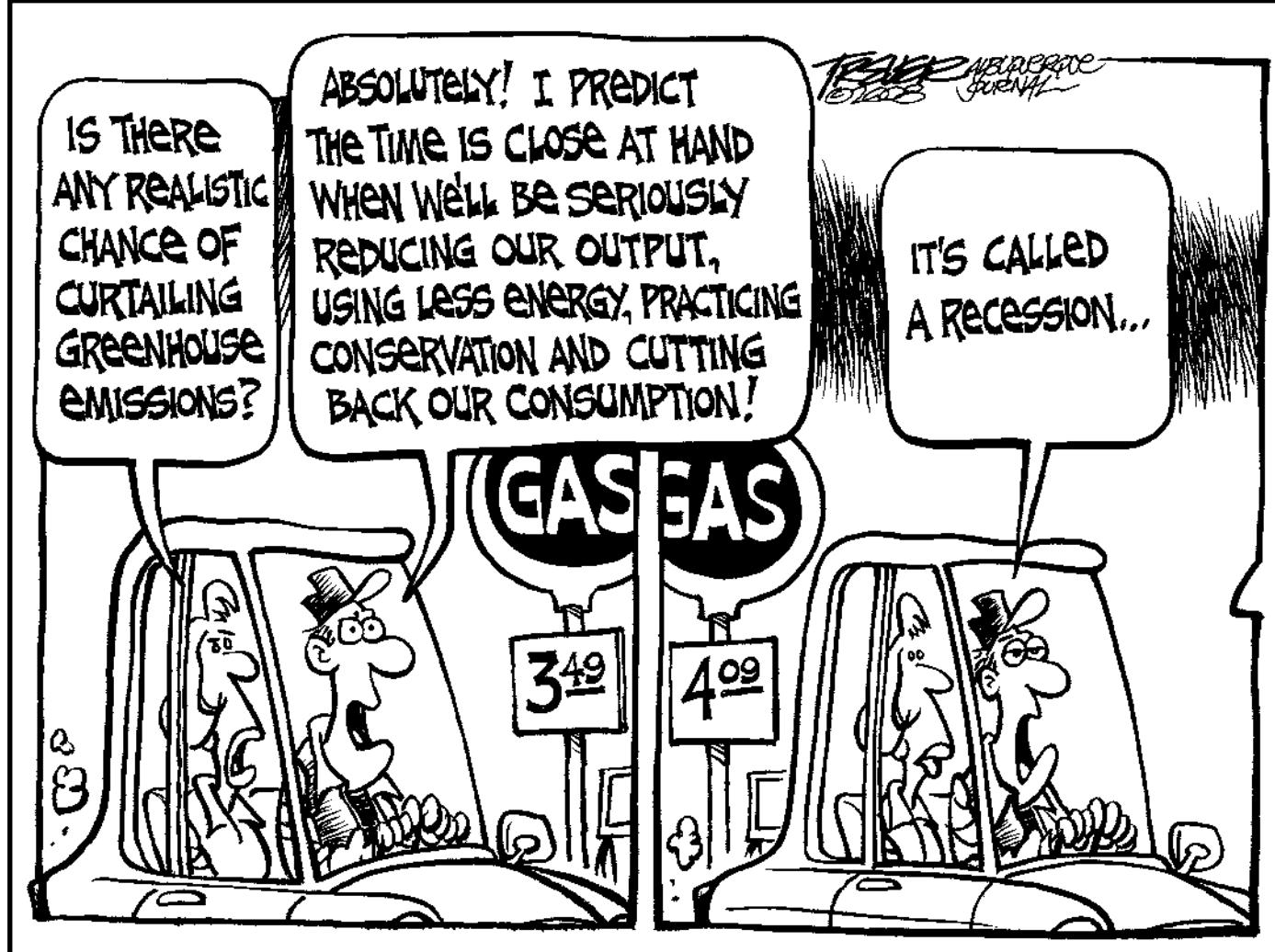
7. U.S. military commanders are warning that Iran poses a greater threat than al-Qaida to the stability of Iraq. How should the U.S. respond? Are there any circumstances under which you would deem it necessary for the U.S. to attack Iran? And don't brush this off by saying you don't answer hypothetical questions—it's no longer hypothetical.

8. Now that it's clear that ethanol production is contributing to the run-up in world food prices, do you still support ethanol mandates and subsidies? If so, how would you ameliorate the global food crisis?

9. How exactly would you ensure that no American citizen can be declared an "enemy combatant"? Explain what you believe a president ought and ought not to be able to do with a foreigner captured abroad and suspected of having plans to kill Americans.

10. Describe a situation in which you would defend the president's asserted power to monitor telephone conversations and e-mails of U.S. citizens without a warrant.

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Unique ways to make money

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Ever since being introduced to network marketing several years ago, I've always been fascinated to discover unique ways to make money. Many of us receive a very limited education in how to generate income. We typically do what 97 percent of the population does: sell our time for money. In other words, we work for a paycheck. This is a form of income-generation that creates what's called linear income. It's a one-time spurt of income that doesn't continue. You trade one hour of your time for an hour's pay, and you never see that hour, or that money again, unless you trade another hour of your time.

The entrepreneurial model, however, allows the flexibility to generate income in many creative ways. When you look at someone's business model and ask yourself, 'how on earth can they be making money?' they might be using an ingenious business model where the money doesn't come from whom, or in the way you think it does—they might be selling products that don't exist, selling the invisible, selling what they don't sell, selling through sleight of hand, selling short, selling opportunity, selling sponsorship, or through some other unique selling strategy.

In this new age of business, making something and selling it—"selling the thing"—while more preferable to simply trading your time for money, is just one way to make money. In life you can be rewarded financially by leveraging the thing, the talent, the time, the timing, the team, or any combination thereof. The challenge in developing your passion-centered business model is to learn how to leverage each and all of these to free yourself from the grind of the rat race. So let's take a look at a few unique ways to do just that.

'Selling opportunity' through network marketing

Here's how network marketing (also known as MultiLevel Marketing or MLM) works:

Say a company has a unique consumable product like noni juice from Saipan and the company decides to use network marketing as the way to sell it. You can join that company and become an "independent distributor" or "rep"—representative of the product. As a rep, you qualify to purchase the product at wholesale prices. Then, every time you sell a bottle of noni to a customer (i.e. your friends family or strangers), you earn a commission.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Now the cool part about network marketing is that if you know someone else who also wants to become a distributor, you can "sponsor" them into the noni company as part of your "organization." You might receive a bonus for sponsoring that person (who is on your first "level"), but the really unique way you make money is that when your new recruit sells a bottle of noni, not only does he/she earn a commission, but you do too! But it gets even better. When your new recruit sponsors a recruit of their own, not only does the new recruit (on your second level) earn a commission for each bottle sold, but your recruit, and you do too! This direct and indirect sponsoring of reps allows you to build an organization of many levels from which income is generated. Each rep also has the same opportunity to build and grow their own organization.

Do you see the power in this? If you don't sell a bottle of noni today, but someone on your team does, you earn money. That's called generating passive income. If you decide never to sell another bottle of noni, but your team members continue selling and sponsoring recruits, your income not only continues, but increases. That's called passive, residual income.

It doesn't have to be a consumable product, of course, but products which people have to use repeatedly work best for generating recurring, passive, residual income streams. You're not only selling the thing, you're selling the position in that your decision to sign up early as a distributor in a given region can reward you for sharing the opportunity with others who then can actively contribute to your wealth. *It's not just the thing, it's the timing and the team!*

MLM is a unique way to make money that's been around for many decades, challenges old ways of thinking, and has created many business success stories. There's a whole lot more to Network Marketing that you can find online.

Selling what you don't sell, do tell

What if you don't have a product to sell, but you know of a product being sold, and you know where there might be buyers? One unique way to make money is simply through referral selling, where you

See UNIQUE on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Only if the people want it

There has been an overwhelming amount of news and editorials about the proposed, "National Park of the Sea." I would like to clarify a few points.

The federal government—as I have said publicly time and time again in every single presentation I have made—is considering doing some additional monuments and several have been proposed by groups outside the government. The attached map highlights the many proposed projects under consideration by the White House. Pew Environment Group's proposed project is the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument.

The federal government has done nothing public regarding the CNMI proposed project and has invested zero effort into investigating its merits to date. All work has been done by Pew Environment Group, which is a private entity. It is not now and never has been a government proposed project. That is why there has been no dialog between the federal government and the local government.

Last week the Legislature passed a joint resolution that was reported in the press as being in opposition to the proposed protected area. The next day, the headline on the front page of the paper read, "Marine monument nixed." The article went on to say that the resolution read, "the Senate on behalf of the people of the CNMI, the House concurring, does not support the establishment, creation, or designation of a marine monument, marine sanctuary, or



national park in the vicinity of any of the Northern Islands of the CNMI."

In the resolution, there is no period at the end of the word CNMI. The papers failed to print that the resolution continues with, "*at this time and feels that study, discussion, and deliberation is necessary before any further action is taken.*"

The White House has been in dialogue with the various private groups, such as Pew Environment Group, and is going to make a decision within the

next week or two as to whether or not they should *start* looking at potential monuments that are not too controversial. The joint resolution, with the accompanying exaggerated press, puts the CNMI proposed project in the "too controversial to be considered" column. We will know within one to two weeks if the White House will reject the concept permanently.

It is not our belief that the Legislature passed the resolution with the intent of killing this proposed project, but they

may have unknowingly done so because the word choices within the resolution imply total opposition. The headline "Marine monument nixed" has also sent a very strong message. The damage may be impossible to undo.

It is our belief that the White House will now likely choose another proposed project over the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument given the lack of leadership support. Pew Environment Group had a charter boat trip planned for June. *National Geographic*

My motives for supporting Pew's proposal

Last week, I was called out by a local elder whom I shall not identify by name. I am more than moved to say thank you and I have no question in my mind that when you read this, you will know that I am speaking to you. I want to thank you for asking me to check my motives behind why I think that Pew's proposed marine national park of the sea is a good proposal. You suggested that there must be something in it for me or else I wouldn't be ac-

tively supporting Angelo Villagomez in his efforts to provide as much public information as possible as quickly as possible. I was wrong and you are right: I do have an ulterior motive. In fact, I have several.

1. The betterment of the CNMI
2. Preservation of the earth's resources
3. Helping government to create the conditions necessary for me to help myself

rope. He had the best prices around—much lower than his competitors—and no one could figure out how he was able to stay in business. Here's his secret as you would structure it:

Let's imagine you buy computer parts from a manufacturer, Mr. Wong in China, and sell them to Mr. Heinz in Europe at a great price, almost at cost. In order to get such a great price, however, you tell Mr. Heinz he has to agree to pay for the parts in 15 days—much sooner than the typical 30 or 60 days that Mr. Heinz might normally be allowed.

At the same time, you have an agreement with Mr. Wong to pay for the parts in 45 days. So, on day 15 after the items are shipped, Mr. Heinz pays you, and you now have that money in your hands for another 30 days until you have to pay Mr. Wong who manufactured the parts.

During that 30-day lag called a "float," you put the money in a high interest bearing account. You generate income on your deposit for 30 or more

For the betterment of the CNMI, I would like to see the people of the CNMI flourish in the spotlight of the world for something better than degradation and greed. I want to hear the pride and excitement in the stories from the children as they explain to a stranger how their people made tough choices early on and helped save the planet.

Wake up! If you aren't sure what all the fuss is about, because you need

someone to help you translate the information science is producing about what is happening to our precious Mother Earth's resources, then let's ask for help. I've offered some of the research that I've completed via this month's cover story of *MP Magazine*, "CNMI National Monument – Priceless!" We are in dangerous times. If we don't take responsibility for our actions today, we won't have a planet tomorrow. What do you want for your children or your

children's children? This statement, in fact, reminds me of another's comment to me last week regarding setting aside a no-take marine zone: "Let's leave for our grandchildren to decide." I didn't respond to the speaker, but it made me very aware of the dangers we face when we isolate ourselves to non-action and ask others to take our burdens and risks for us.

Ultimately and on a very real level, *See MY MOTIVES on Page 13*

UNIQUE

From Page 10

connect buyers with sellers. You can sell referrals to vendors who are looking for customers and get paid for the referral, and/or you can get paid even more—a percentage—if the referral results in a sale. Many online vendors are using variations of this model through affiliate marketing and other referral programs. "It's not the thing, or the timing, or the team, it's the telling!"

Selling sleight of hand

Another unique way to make money falls into what I call the "selling sleight of hand" category where you're not actually selling what people think you're selling. This information comes from my friend David Khorram who shared with me a story of a business owner he once knew who was connecting buyers with sellers in a unique way.

This fellow sold computer parts from China to computer companies in Eu-

days until you have to pay Mr. Wong in China.

Using such a model, this fellow made money—\$200,000 a year and more—just on that 30-day float and the interest he earned while the money was in his hands. *It's not the thing, at all, it's the time!*

Find the right product, the right market, the best interest-generating vehicle. With a model like that, how much you want to make depends on the interest rate, the amount of the payment, the float time and the volume of your sales.

Do you see the power in this? It allows you to enter a market that might have lower than practical profit margins and still make money. You can use other people's money to generate the interest. You never need to take possession of the thing as the manufacturer could ship it directly to the buyer.

SUMMARY

These are just a few unique ways to make money. What I like about approaching business in these unique

ways is that it allows you to expand your definition of business, shows you value in hidden places, and raises your belief level about what's possible.

Today, technology makes such business models and creative ideas even more powerful. Much of the paperwork, monitoring and tracking can be done online, payments can be automatically and directly deposited, and global markets can be more accessible.

In the following weeks, we'll meet some unique entrepreneurs right here on Saipan and offer some ideas on how they can increase their selling success! Stay tuned.

Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Note: SaipanLiving Update:
Visit the SaipanLiving.com website to see our growing list of actual questions being asked by people all over the world who want to know what life on

Saipan is really like! Choose one to answer to help with our launch!

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top ten, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like in our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at questions@saipanliving.com.

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲60 ▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲74 ▼57
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲79 ▼76
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81 ▼72
London	Rain	▲54 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼52
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲81 ▼70
New York	Partly Sunny	▲58 ▼45
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼55
Paris	Rain	▲58 ▼42
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼56
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼53
Salem	Showers	▲52 ▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼47
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲71 ▼50
Tokyo	Sunny	▲73 ▼57
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼46

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
3:51AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
9:52AM Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
2:31PM Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
9:25PM Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54AM	6:34PM	Today	1:40AM	1:32PM
Thursday	5:54AM	6:35PM	Thursday	2:19AM	2:25PM
Friday	5:53AM	6:35PM	Friday	2:58AM	3:19PM
Saturday	5:53AM	6:35PM	Saturday	3:38AM	4:16PM
Sunday	5:52AM	6:35PM	Sunday	4:21AM	5:16PM

Moonrise/Moonset

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Island Snapshots



POLICE WEEK

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Rep. Ray Yumul, and Associate Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro look at the display during the Department of Public Safety's 2008 CNMI Police Week, EMS Week, EMSC Day, Safe Boating Week and Click It or Ticket Mobilization proclamation signing ceremony at the Governor's conference room on Capitol Hill Friday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ACTUARIAL REPORT

Retirement Fund's actuary, Buck Consultants' Dylan Porter, center, gestures while House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Fund Administrator Mark Aguon and Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero look on, during Friday's Retirement Fund presentation to the Legislature at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



VISITING ARTIST

Professional artist Curtis Hempf, who hails from Oregon, is visiting the island to teach fine arts to students of the Saipan American Education Foundation (SAEF) School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



FESTIVAL SIGHTS

Kagman Elementary School students and principal Ignacia T. Demapan wave to the crowd from their float, which won this year's best float award at the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Parade of Cultures on Beach Road from Susupe Beach Park to Civic Center Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Artist Leo Joseph Darry of Rota demonstrates his woodcarving skills.

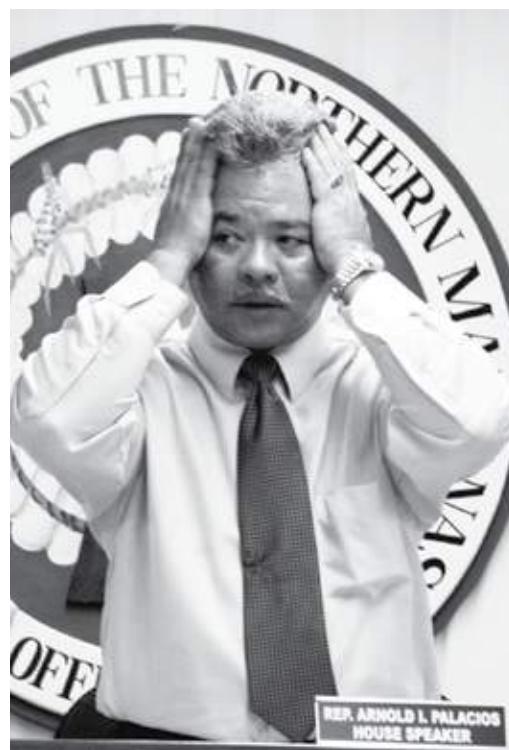
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



CARWASH

Marianas High School students, together with Team PTI, clean a car during the group's free carwash fundraising activity for this year's Marianas March Against Cancer at PTI's parking lot in Susupe, Saturday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



GAME FACE

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios reacts during Thursday's session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Clad in a traditional Chamorro attire, brothers Joe and Rey Blas Viloria and Mike Palomo from the Guam delegation blow the Ku'lou or the signal horn to begin the celebration for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Annika and her dad get their faces caricatured by artist Greg Flores of Guam.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Business

Oil below \$119 a barrel



Gas station attendant Fazal Maula, of Boston, operates a pump at filling station, in Boston, Friday, April 25, 2008.

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell Tuesday amid expectations that a supply disruption in the U.K. would soon be resolved and as the U.S. dollar held its ground against the euro.

Crude futures the previous day rose to a record \$119.93 a barrel as labor actions in Nigeria and Scotland threatened crude supplies. But a pipeline that normally carries 700,000 barrels of crude a day to the U.K. is likely to be back in operation soon.

"The Forties pipeline shut-

down in the North Sea is fully priced in and the market may be taking some mild profits on the basis that we'll see a return ... in the near term," said Mark Pervan, a senior commodity strategist at the ANZ Bank in Melbourne.

The Forties Pipeline System was shut down by BP PLC because of a 48-hour walkout by employees at a refinery in central Scotland. The refinery powers the onshore processing plant for North Sea crude coming through

the network, and once the strike is over later Tuesday, the pipeline system should resume operation within a few days.

Oil prices also retreated from Monday's record as the dollar stabilized against the euro.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery fell 28 cents to \$118.47 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract settled up 23 cents at \$118.75 a barrel on Monday.

GM to lay off 3,550 at four pickup truck, SUV factories

DETROIT (AP)—The dwindling U.S. auto market and an accelerating shift from trucks to cars has brought grim layoff news to four General Motors Corp. factories.

The company announced Monday that it plans to cut one shift each at pickup truck and large sport utility vehicle plants in Flint and Pontiac, Mich.;

Janesville, Wis.; and Oshawa, Ontario, resulting in about 3,550 layoffs.

The world's largest automaker by sales said the cuts, to take effect this summer, were brought on by weak demand due to high gasoline prices and an economic downturn.

GM said it will make about 88,000 fewer pickups and

50,000 fewer big SUVs this calendar year because of the cuts. The layoffs represent just over 4 percent of GM's hourly manufacturing work force of about 80,000 in North America.

The announcement came after stock markets closed. GM shares rose 56 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$21.94 Monday, then lost 3 cents in after-hours trading.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks finish little change ahead of Fed rate meeting

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street finished little changed Monday as investors turned cautious ahead of the Federal Reserve's two-day policy meeting, which starts Tuesday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 20.11, or 0.16 percent, to 12,871.75. Broader indexes were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 1.47, or 0.11 percent, to 1,396.37, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.47, or 0.06 percent, to 2,424.40. Bond prices edged higher after suffering big losses last week. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.82 percent from 3.87 percent late Friday.

US groups in China call for freer trade

BEIJING (AP)—Three American business groups are appealing to Washington and Beijing to promote freer trade and reject protectionism amid slowing U.S. economic growth and a widening trade gap with China. In an annual report on business conditions, American Chambers of Commerce for China, Shanghai and South China rejected calls by some in the United States for

punitive measures over Beijing's trade surplus and currency controls. They also called on Beijing to repeal rules that limit foreign investment and competition. The groups said they will send a 40-member delegation to Washington in May to deliver the report to key lawmakers. Zimmerman said they hope to meet with the U.S. presidential candidates or their aides.

Mars buying gum maker Wrigley with financing from Buffett

CHICAGO (AP)—The Oracle of Omaha is betting that the country's candy jar is recession-proof. With financing from Warren Buffett, candy maker Mars Inc. on Monday said it is buying confectioner Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. for an estimated \$23 billion in cash. The deal would marry brands that sweet-toothed Americans have munched on for decades: Mars owns Snickers and M&Ms; Wrigley's gum brands include Juicy Fruit, Orbit, Extra and Big Red. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. will purchase a \$2.1 billion minority equity interest in the Wrigley subsidiary once the deal is completed. The Omaha, Neb.-based company also offered \$4.4 billion of subordinated debt to fund the deal.

Nation

3 tornadoes rip through Virginia, hundreds hurt

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP)—Three tornadoes ripped through Virginia on Monday, with one hop-scotching across the southeastern part of the state and leaving behind a 25-mile trail of smashed homes, tossed cars and more than 200 injured residents.

The twister in this city outside Norfolk cut a fickle, zig-zagging path through neighborhoods, obliterating some homes and spraying splintered wood across lawns while leaving those standing just a few feet away untouched.

Buses took residents to safe-

ty, steering clear of downed power lines, tree limbs and a confetti of debris.

Insulation, wiring and twisted metal hung from the front of a mall that was stripped bare of its facing. At another store, the tin roof was rolled up like a sardine can. Some of the cars and SUVs in the parking lot laid on top of others.

"It's just a bunch of broken power poles, telephone lines and sad faces," said Richard Allbright, who works for a tree removal service in Driver and had been out for hours trying to

clear the roads.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency for the areas of southeastern Virginia struck by the twisters.

The National Weather Service confirmed that tornadoes struck Suffolk, Colonial Heights and Brunswick County. Meteorologist Bryan Jackson described Suffolk's as a "major tornado."

Jackson said the Brunswick County tornado was estimated at 86 mph to 110 mph, and cut a 300-yard path of destruction.



A firefighter is seen outside a strip mall that was destroyed after an apparent tornado hit Suffolk, Va. on Monday, April 28, 2008.

AP poll: Clinton leading McCain



WASHINGTON

TON (AP)—

Hillary Rod-

ham Clinton

now leads John McCain by 9 points in a head-to-head presidential matchup, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll that bolsters her argument that she is more electable than Democratic rival Barack Obama. Obama and Republican McCain are running about even.

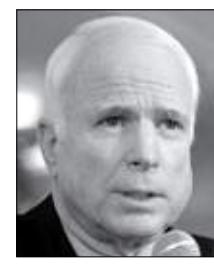
The survey released Monday gives the New York senator and former first lady a fresh talking point as she works to raise much-needed campaign cash and persuade pivotal undecided superdelegates to side with her in the drawn-out Democratic primary fight.

Helped by independents, young people and seniors, Clinton gained ground this month in a hypothetical match with Sen. McCain, the GOP nominee-in-waiting. She now leads McCain, 50 percent to 41 percent, while Obama remains virtually tied with McCain, 46 percent to 44 percent.

Both Democrats were roughly even with McCain in the previous poll about three

weeks ago.

Since then, Clinton won the Pennsylvania primary, raising questions anew about whether Obama can attract broad swaths of voters needed to triumph in such big states come the fall when the Democratic nominee will go up against McCain. At the same time, Obama was thrown on



Clinton

McCain

the defensive by his comment that residents of small-town America were bitter. The Illinois senator also continued to deal with the controversial remarks of his longtime Chicago pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

"I don't think there's any question that over the last three weeks her stature has improved," said Harrison Hickman, a Democratic pollster unaligned in the primary. He

attributed Clinton's gains to people moving from the "infatuation stage" of choosing the candidate they like the most to a "decision-making stage" where they determine who would make the best president.

Added Steve Lombardo, a GOP pollster: "This just reinforces the sentiment that a lot of Republican strategists are

having right now - that Clinton might actually be the more formidable fall candidate for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that Obama can't seem to get his footing back."

The AP-Ipsos poll found Clinton and Obama about even in the race for the Democratic nomination. Underscoring deep divisions within the Democratic Party - and a potentially negative longer-term impact - 30 percent of Clinton supporters and 21 percent of Obama supporters said they would vote for McCain in November if their preferred candidate didn't win the nomination.

NATION

31 of 53 teen girls at FLDS ranch pregnant, had baby

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—More than half the teenage girls taken from a polygamist compound in west Texas have children or are pregnant, state officials said Monday.

A total of 53 girls between the ages of 14 and 17 are in state custody after a raid 3 1/2 weeks ago at the Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado. Of those girls, 31 either have children or are pregnant, said Child Protective Services spokesman Darrell Azar. He didn't specify how many are pregnant.

"It shows you a pretty distinct pattern, that it was pretty pervasive," he said.

State officials took custody of all 463 children at the ranch controlled by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, saying a pattern of teen girls forced into underage "spiritual" marriages and sex with much older men created an unsafe environment for the sect's children.

Under Texas law, children under the age of 17 generally cannot consent to sex with an adult. A girl can get married with parental permission at 16, but none of these girls is believed to have a legal marriage under state law.

State officials said earlier that they had found girls who were pregnant or had children of their own at the ranch, but they had not provided more than rough estimates until Monday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cops: Deputies shoot, kill man with knives at Calif. court

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A man with a history of mental illness burst into a packed courtroom Monday wielding two carving knives and was shot to death as he threatened a judge he may have blamed for his misfortune, authorities said. Robert Eaton, 40, had an extensive arrest record and last year, rammed his car into the Merced County courthouse out of anger that he was refused treatment by a mental health facility, Merced County Sheriff Mark Pazin said. Eaton ran past guards and through a set of metal detectors at the front door holding a knife in each hand. As attorneys and witnesses cried out, Eaton charged through the doors of Courtroom 2 and into the well where lawyers were standing in the midst of court proceedings, Chief Deputy District Attorney Harold Nutt said.

Wis. parents who prayed as diabetic daughter died charged

WESTON, Wis. (AP)—Two parents who prayed as their 11-year-old daughter died of untreated diabetes were charged Monday with second-degree reckless

Man charged with pushing friend into strip coal mine

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) —A man who called 911 after his friend survived a 500-foot fall at a strip mine was charged Monday with pushing him over the edge.

While Nathan Bowman recovered from broken bones and other injuries in a hospital, Richard D. George was sent to Schuylkill County Prison in lieu of \$10,000 bail.

Authorities said in court documents that George, after telling a story that didn't add up, admitted under questioning that he pushed Bowman into the canyon-shaped mine about 1 a.m. Friday after they got into an argument.

George was charged with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and other offenses. It wasn't immediately clear whether he had an attorney.

Police said the 23-year-olds were trespassing on coal company property when George pushed Bowman off a sheer cliff.

Bowman, of Tamaqua, broke his collarbone and tailbone and suffered injuries to his wrist and ankle when he went over the side of the Springdale Pit, an inactive coal mine about 700 feet deep, 3,000 feet long and 1,500 feet wide.

homicide. Family and friends had urged Dale and Leilani Neumann to get help for their daughter, but the father considered the illness "a test of faith" and the mother never considered taking the girl to the doctor because she thought her daughter was under a "spiritual attack," the criminal complaint said. Madeline Neumann died March 23—Easter Sunday—at her family's rural Weston home. Her parents were told the body would be taken to Madison for an autopsy the next day. An autopsy determined that Madeline died from undiagnosed diabetic ketoacidosis, which left her with too little insulin in her body. Court records said she likely had some symptoms of the disease for months.

'Cutter' convicted in plot to carve up cadavers for profit

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge on Monday convicted a man of secretly cutting up corpses—including that of "Masterpiece Theatre" host Alistair Cooke—as part of a multimillion-dollar body parts scheme. Chris Aldorasi was found guilty of enterprise corruption and other criminal counts at a trial in Brooklyn. Aldorasi, who chose to have a judge hear his case instead of a jury, faces up to 60 years in pris-

NY cardinal criticizes Giuliani for taking Communion

NEW YORK (AP)—Rudy Giuliani should not have received Holy Communion during the pope's visit because the former presidential candidate supports abortion rights, New York Cardinal Edward Egan said Monday. Egan says he had "an understanding" with Giuliani that he is not to receive the Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches "that abortion is a grave offense against the will of God," Egan said. The cardinal said Monday that Giuliani broke that understanding when he received the Eucharist during Pope Benedict XVI's visit earlier this month. He received Communion during the April 19 service from one of the many clergymen who offered the sacrament. Egan says he will be seeking a meeting with Giuliani "to insist that he abide by our understanding."

Asia

Vietnam to halt American adoptions after US report

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) —Vietnam, where growing numbers of Americans have turned to adopt a baby, announced Monday it would stop processing new adoption applications from U.S. citizens from July following allegations of baby-selling, corruption and fraud.

The abrupt cutoff cast a cloud of uncertainty over pending adoptions in the Southeast Asian country, which have surged in the face of tightened

restrictions in China, Guatemala and elsewhere.

The announcement came days after The Associated Press published details of a U.S. Embassy report that outlined rampant abuses, including hospitals selling infants whose mothers could not pay their bills, brokers scouring villages for babies and a grandmother who gave away her grandchild without telling the child's mother.

"It is tragic for children

that the U.S. government has not been able to find ways to work with the Vietnamese government to prevent adoption abuses while at the same time processing legitimate adoptions," said Tom Atwood, president of the Washington-based National Council for Adoption, a research and advocacy organization.

"Many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of children will not have families as a result of this failure of leadership."



PRECIOUS RICE

A man scoops rice that fell from a broken plastic bag at the National Food Authority warehouse in suburban Manila, Philippines on Monday, April 28, 2008. The Philippine government plans to introduce "rice access cards" for the poor to use to buy cheaper subsidized supplies to help stave off a wider food crisis, officials said.

Afghan troops take to Kabul's streets after attack on Karzai

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —Afghan soldiers took up positions Monday in districts of the capital where government officials and foreigners live, while security officers hunted for suspects in the attempted assassination of President Hamid Karzai.

About 100 people were rounded up for questioning about the attack that killed three people and wounded eight during a government celebration Sunday,

The ability of militants to get close enough to fire rockets and automatic rifles at a grand-

stand holding Karzai and foreign dignitaries underscored the fragility of Afghanistan's government as it fights the former ruling Taliban movement and allied insurgents.

"The terrorist threat is real, it is deadly, and defeating this enemy has to be a top priority of the United States, of the Afghan government, of the Iraqi government, and the NATO alliance," White House press secretary Dana Perino said Monday.

Extensive kidney trading involving impoverished Filipinos and prisoners—who sell their organs for paltry sums to syndicates catering mostly to foreign clients—has been reported by the local media in recent years. A temporary ban on kidney transplants involving foreigners

was recently imposed.

China and Pakistan, among the world's biggest sources of kidneys, have taken steps to outlaw the sale of human organs, and desperate foreigners may be prompted to increasingly turn to the Philippines for kidneys, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said.

World

Ex-deputy PM Tariq Aziz faces trial

BAGHDAD (AP)—He was the international face of Saddam Hussein's regime - defending Iraq and taunting the West for more than a decade. Now, Tariq Aziz awaits an Iraqi court as the latest member of the Saddam's inner circle to face trial.

Aziz, 72, the only Christian among Saddam's mostly Sunni Muslim coterie, and five other defendants face charges in the 1992 execution of dozens of merchants accused of profiteering.

The trial, scheduled to begin Tuesday, could represent the last

high-profile Saddam era figure to face prosecution for alleged atrocities.

But defenders of Aziz - who used his fluent English in countless interviews and news conferences as foreign minister and then deputy prime minister - accused the Shiite-led government of seeking revenge for Aziz's refusal to testify against the late dictator.

"The Iraqi government also wants to avoid the public criticism for keeping an ailing man in prison for five years without presenting any charges against

him," Aziz's son, Ziad, said in a telephone interview from Amman, Jordan.

Aziz was No. 25 on the U.S. most-wanted list after the invasion and surrendered to American forces on April 25, 2003, about two weeks after the fall of Baghdad.

Among his co-defendants are Saddam's half brother Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan and the dictator's cousin known as "Chemical Ali," who faces a pending death sentence in another case, according to an attorney.

Blast during a Gaza fight kills Palestinian mother, 4 children



A Palestinian man lifts the body of Rudina Abu Meatak, 6, at the morgue of the Kamal Edwan hospital in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza Strip, Monday, April 28, 2008.

AP

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—An explosion shattered a tiny Gaza Strip house as Israeli troops battled militants Monday, killing a Palestinian woman and four of her children in new bloodshed that threatened efforts to arrange a truce between the warring sides.

Palestinians said the house was hit by an Israeli tank shell; Israel said explosives being carried by militants blew up and brought down the two-room structure.

Miyasar Abu Meatak was preparing breakfast for her children in the northern Gaza town

of Beit Hanoun when an explosion ripped through the home, her stepson Ibrahim said. Four of her children, ages 15 months to 6 years, were killed instantly, and she died shortly afterward at a hospital, Palestinian officials said. Her two older children were reported critically wounded.

"What a black day. They killed my family," the grief-stricken father, Ahmad Abu Meatak, wailed outside the hospital. Abu Meatak said he was on his way to a nearby market when the house blew up.

The force of the blast scattered clothes and other house-

hold items outside the wrecked home. A single white child's shoe, flattened by the explosion, lay near a pair of blue shorts covered in sand. A green baby seat, one end bent, stood empty.

Omar Abdel Nabi, a farmer in a large crowd watching workers clean up debris and blood-stained sand, said he was driving his tractor in a nearby field when two or three explosions shook the ground.

"People were screaming that a tank shell landed in the next street," he told The Associated Press. "I carried two people covered in blood out of a house."

Police: Austrian kids locked in basement, never saw sunlight

AMSTETTEN, Austria (AP)—The children locked in the basement never saw the light of day for years. A retired electrician has confessed to imprisoning his daughter for 24 years and fathering seven children with her in a windowless cell sealed by an electronic keyless-entry system, police said Monday.

One of the children died in infancy and was tossed into the furnace of what stunned Austrians have labeled a "house of horrors," officials said. The suspect owned the gray stone apartment building, lived there with

his family, and rented the other units to relatives.

Austria is still scandalized by a 2006 case involving a girl who was kidnapped and imprisoned in a basement outside Vienna for more than eight years, and residents of this working class town west of the capital were puzzled as to how the latest instance could go undetected for so long.

Questions were being raised as to how the suspect - identified as Josef Fritzl, 73 - deceived neighbors, social workers and police for so long.

"How is it possible that no one knew anything for 24 years?" asked Anita Fabian, a teacher in Amstetten. "This was not possible without accomplices."

Fritzl was placed in pretrial detention and faces up to 15 years in prison if charged, tried and convicted on rape charges, the most grave of his alleged offenses under Austrian law.

Police released Fritzl's full name and photograph at a news conference Monday, after his identity was widely reported by media in Austria and elsewhere in Europe.

Campus



THE WASHINGTON POST
Kim Loudermilk, right, an associate dean at Emory University, gives a presentation to prospective students in Washington, D.C. Schools are stepping up such recruitment efforts.

It's colleges' turn to say 'pick me!'

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Students admitted to colleges and universities for this fall are being bombarded with invitations to big parties and small get-togethers to meet officials and alumni, all wanting to talk about the greatness of their schools. It is all part of the frenetic month of April, when college-bound students must choose which school to attend before May 1, and when school officials do everything they can think of to entice them to choose—quickly.

"It boils down to this: We're more aggressively recruiting our admitted students," said Robert McCullough, dean of admissions at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa. "In the old days, you recruited students to apply, you got their applications, accepted who you wanted by April 1, and got your class by May 1.

"But a number of trends have made such a model obsolete: namely, increased competition for top scholars and the proliferation of applications submitted—both in terms of total volume and the number of applications submitted per student."

So prospective students are getting e-mail blasts from current students and alumni, and their parents are being invited onto new Web sites for chats about college life.

Schools are welcoming families to carefully scheduled events—Freshman Day, Get Acquainted Day and more—to show off their high points (never the low ones). Marching bands and school mascots greet visitors even as they register. Some, such as Kenyon College in Ohio, are

paying for students to travel to campus to check them out.

For students, there is one big question: Where to go? For colleges, the answer is: Pick me, and do it now.

Jessica Thomas, 18, who attends Churchill High School in Montgomery County, Md., has spent the past few weeks attending parties given by alumni from Tulane University—"I went to see if there would be New Orleans food" she quipped—and Emory University.

At a gathering for students admitted to Emory, held in Washington, D.C., school officials talked up the university, letting students know that famous faculty not only do research but also teach undergraduates (unlike at some big-name schools). Students were told that the Dalai Lama and author Salman Rushdie are faculty members who come to campus periodically.

"It wasn't a total waste of time like others I've been to," Thomas said as alumni hovered nearby, ready to answer her every question about the school.

"I just want her to know what a great college experience I had," said Emory graduate Rob Kimmer, a trademark copyright lawyer who studied journalism at the university.

This might be the one point in the entire admissions process when students are in the driver's seat.

"Welcome to my nightmare," half-joked Doug Christiansen, associate provost for enrollment and dean of admissions at Vanderbilt University.

"I'm in this phenomenal career where my job hinges on the whims of 17-year-olds," said Andrew Flagel, admissions

director at George Mason University. "As any parent will tell you, that is a precarious place to live."

Deciding how many students to accept—taking into account the number of applications and slots available in the freshman class—is a highly complicated process that falls somewhere between an art and a science, admissions officials say. Colleges tackle mind-numbing numbers of analyses trying to figure out who is more likely to accept based on a variety of characteristics, including region of origin, academic ability, gender and ethnic background.

For example, a student with an SAT score just under perfect, who is also a valedictorian, is viewed differently than a student with a score several hundred points lower who is in the top 8 percent of his or her class, Christiansen said.

The answers produced by the analyses, plus looking at historical yields, help determine how many acceptance letters to ship out, Christiansen said.

"If we overenroll, we don't have enough capacity," he said. "If we underenroll, that becomes a financially underutilized capacity issue. ... We can go to the waiting list. But in the end, you have to hit it dead on."

That, at least, is the aim.

"We are always wondering if we've picked the right students," said Cheryl Butler, admissions director at Binghamton University. "Will they show up? What about the yield? What will the economy do to the yield? What are the other colleges doing in regard to financial aid packages?"

"This is a very interesting time."

Life & Style

Carlsberg pumps up Acoustic Nights at Club V

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Instead of bare space, there were three tall stools and three microphone stands on the stage. Instead of a full drum set, the drummer had a beat box. And instead of dizzying strobe lights and a disco ball, there was subdued lighting all throughout, except for a steady spotlight that focused on the three singers.

It was Acoustic Nights at Club V and the crowd was in a mellow mood, kicking back with a Carlsberg bottle in one hand and a bevy of friends in the other. Yet for all that it was a Wednesday night, the size of the crowd that crammed itself into Club V would have you thinking that it was a weekend.

It was the official launching of the "Acoustic Nights with Carlsberg" and the place was packed. Pacific Wines and Spirits, the local distributor of Carlsberg beer, had invited all the wait staff, bartenders, and Food and Beverage personnel from the island's hotels and restaurants to introduce them to the new product but it was a mixed crowd that came to taste and enjoy what has been dubbed as "probably the best beer in the world." Crowd estimates ranged from 250 to 300 persons who mixed and mingled with several PWS staff that were distinctly dressed in green, carrying on the motif of the dark green Carlsberg bottles.

The star of the night, Carlsberg premium pilsner beer, was a smash hit. The Q room, which had been set up with six dispensers, had long lines snaking out the door, as guests treated themselves to glass after glass of the excellent lager. Club V's wait staff couldn't replenish the dispensers fast enough!

Club V's resident band, Zynergy, was the other star attraction, entertaining the crowd with a mixed plate of love songs, pop, reggae, and acoustic rendition of rock favorites. Brad Ruszala, the host for the night, entertained the crowd between sets with contests and trivia questions that gave the crowd a chance to win buckets of Carlsberg beer and other Carlsberg souvenirs such as t-shirts and bottle openers. For example: "What is the alcohol content of a bottle of Carlsberg beer?" Answer: 5 percent. The participation of visiting sailors in the contests was a bonus, ensuring that these visitors enjoy themselves on their R&R.

The night's overall success bodes well for the "Acoustic Nights with Carlsberg" and Club V patrons will definitely have something new to look forward to every Wednesday night. One guest summed it up when she was overheard saying, "This is a great idea! If this keeps up, I will definitely become a regular customer here every Wednesday night."



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Party host Brad Ruszala facilitates the trivia contest where the contestants got the chance to win buckets of Carlsberg beer and other souvenirs.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The friendly staff of Gentle Brook Café smile for the camera.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Palms Resort Saipan Hotel staff and personnel gather for a photo during the party.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Pacific Wine & Spirits general manager Dan Matsuno with Aqua Resort Club food and beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa, and PWS Mark Lim during last Wednesday's "Acoustic Nights with Carlsberg" at Club V.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan World Resort staff and Pacific Islands Club's Asher gather for a photo during the special event.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Wait staff, bartenders, and personnel from the island's hotels and restaurants gather inside Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V during the launching of the "Acoustic Nights with Carlsberg".



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guests line up to get a refill from the Carlsberg beer towers inside the Q room.

Scholars run down more clues to Holocaust mystery

STOCKHOLM, Sweden
 (AP)—Budapest, November 1944: Another German train has loaded its cargo of Jews bound for Auschwitz. A young Swedish diplomat pushes past the SS guard and scrambles onto the roof of a cattle car.

Ignoring shots fired over his head, he reaches through the open door to outstretched hands, passing out dozens of bogus "passports" that extended Sweden's protection to the bearers. He orders everyone with a document off the train and into his caravan of vehicles. The guards look on, dumbfounded.

Raoul Wallenberg was a minor official of a neutral country, with an unimposing appearance and gentle manner. Recruited and financed by the U.S., he was sent into Hungary to save Jews. He bullied, bluffed and bribed powerful Nazis to prevent the deportation of 20,000 Hungarian Jews to concentration camps, and averted the massacre of 70,000 more people in Budapest's ghetto by threatening to have the Nazi commander hanged as a war criminal.

Then, on Jan. 17, 1945, days after the Soviets moved into Budapest, the 32-year-old Wallenberg and his Hungarian driver, Vilmos Langfelder, drove off under a Russian security escort, and vanished forever.

And because he was a rare flicker of humanity in the man-made hell of the Holocaust, the world has celebrated him ever since. Streets have been named after him and his face has been on postage stamps. And researchers have wrestled with two enduring mysteries: Why was Wallenberg arrested, and did he really die in Soviet custody in 1947?

Researchers have sifted through hundreds of purported sightings of Wallenberg into the 1980s, right down to plotting his movements from cell to cell while in custody. And fresh documents are to become public which might cast light on another puzzle: Whether Wallenberg was connected, directly or indirectly, to a super-secret wartime U.S. intelligence agency known as "the Pond," operating as World War II was drawing to a close and the Soviets were growing increasingly suspicious of Western intentions in eastern Europe.

Speculation that Wallenberg was engaged in espionage has been rife since the Central Intelligence Agency acknowledged in the 1990s that he had been recruited for his rescue mission by an agent of the Office of Strategic Services, the OSS, which later became the CIA.

About the Pond, little is known. But later this year the CIA is to release a stash of Pond-related papers accidentally discovered in a Virginia barn in 2001. These are the papers of John Grombach, who headed the



In this photo provided by Yad Vashem Photo Archives, Jewish women and children deported from Hungary, separated from the men, line up for selection on the selection platform at Auschwitz camp in Birkenau, Poland in May 1944. AP

Pond from its creation in 1942. CIA officials say they should be turned over to the National Archives in College Park, Md.

In February, the Swedish government posted an online database of 1,000 documents and testimonies related to Wallenberg's disappearance. In a few months, independent investigators plan to launch a Web site with their nearly 20-year research into Russian archives and prison records. Russia is building a Museum of Tolerance that will feature once-classified documents on Wallenberg. And the CIA last year relaxed its guidelines to reveal details of its sources and intelligence-gathering methods in the case.

Despite dozens of books and hundreds of documents on Wallenberg, much remains hidden. The Kremlin has failed to find or deliver dozens of files, Sweden has declined to open all its books, and The Associated Press has learned as many as 100,000 pages of declassified OSS documents await processing at the National Archives.

The Russians say Wallenberg died in prison in 1947, but never produced a proper death certificate or his remains.

But independent research suggests he may have lived many years—perhaps until the late 1980s. If true, he likely was held in isolation, stripped of his identity, known only by a number or a false name and moving like a phantom among Soviet prisons, labor camps and psychiatric institutions.

In 1991, the Russian government assigned Vyacheslav Nikonov, deputy head of the KGB intelligence service, to spend months searching classified archives about Wallenberg.

"I think I found all the existing documents," Nikonov e-mailed The Associated Press

last month. The Soviets believed Wallenberg had been a spy, he said, but unlike many political detainees he never had a trial.

Nikonov's conclusion: "Shot in 1947."

Later in 1991, Russia and Sweden launched a joint investigation that lasted 10 years but failed to reach a joint conclusion.

The 2001 Swedish report said: "There is no fully reli-

sians consider the Wallenberg case 'resolved.'

Unsatisfied, independent consultants and academics have kept digging, analyzing, reassessing old information and pressing for the Kremlin to release missing files.

Wallenberg arrived in Budapest in July 1944. With the knowledge of his government, his task

extermination. They were among the last of six million Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust.

Of the 230,000 who remained in the Hungarian capital in mid-1944, 100,000 survived the war.

After the Red Army arrived in January, Wallenberg went to see the Russian military commander to discuss postwar reconstruction and restitution of Jewish property. Two days later he returned under Russian escort to collect some personal effects, then was never seen in public again.

And what did his country—or his influential cousins—do about it?

Looking back a half century later, the Swedish government acknowledged that its own passive response to the detention of one of its diplomats was astounding, and that it had missed several chances to win his freedom.

"The worst mistakes were done in the first two years," said Hans Magnusson, the Swedish co-chairman of the 10-year investigation with the Russians. Sweden felt intimidated by the mighty Soviets and unwilling to challenge them, he said.

In the mid-1950s, the Swedes pursued the case more aggressively, prompting a memorandum from Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in 1957 that Wallenberg had died of heart failure in detention 10 years earlier—at age 34.

As more testimony came in that Wallenberg was still alive, Stockholm periodically raised the issue with Moscow—but without results, said Magnusson, interviewed in the Netherlands where he is now ambassador.

Sweden could have pushed harder, he said, "but I doubt it would have achieved more."

"It is inconceivable," says Wallenberg's half-sister, Nina Lagergren. "Here is a man sent

out by the Swedish government to risk his life. He saved thousands of people—and he was left to rot."

Some time around 1994, Susan Mesinai, who had by then been researching the Wallenberg case for five years, visited Lucette Colvin Kelsey, Wallenberg's cousin, at her home in Connecticut. After lunch, Kelsey caught up with Mesinai as she got into the car and told her: "Raoul was working for the highest levels of government."

"So I said to her, 'How high? Do you mean the president?' And she nodded her head," Mesinai said, disclosing to AP a conversation she had kept confidential for 14 years.

Kelsey's father, Col. William Colvin, had been the U.S. military attache in the Swedish capital around the time of World War I. Wallenberg spent vacations in the 1930s with the Colvin family while he earned a degree in architecture at the University of Michigan. Kelsey, who was a year younger than her cousin, died in 1996.

Rather than clarify anything, Kelsey's cryptic remark only deepened the fog.

Wallenberg's rescue mission inevitably placed him in a vortex of intrigue and espionage involving the Hungarian resistance, the Jewish underground, communists working for the Soviets, and British, U.S. and Swedish intelligence operations. He also had regular contact with Adolf Eichmann and other Nazis running the deportation of Jews.

Whether or not he himself was passing on intelligence, Russia had plenty of reason to suspect him of spying, either for the Allies or Germany—or both.

"Wallenberg had ties to all the major actors in Hungary," says Susanne Berger, a German researcher who collaborated with the Swedish-Russian research project.

The Stockholm chief of the War Refugee Board, Iver C. Olsen, was also a key member of the 35-man OSS station in the Swedish capital, and it was he who recruited Wallenberg, who in turn kept the U.S. connection secret by sending his communications through Swedish diplomatic channels.

Olsen's OSS personnel file—unpublished until the AP viewed it at the National Archives—revealed that the American was cited for using his position at the War Refugee Board "in gathering important information for the OSS and for the State Department."

In 1955 Olsen denied to the CIA that Wallenberg ever spied for the OSS, and Mesinai and Berger offer a different likelihood: that the Swede was a source for the Pond, which was

See SCHOLARS on Page 20



This undated file photo shows World War II hero Raoul Wallenberg.

able proof of what happened to Raoul Wallenberg," and listed 17 unanswered questions.

The Russian report bluntly said, "Wallenberg died, or most likely was killed, on July 17, 1947." It named Viktor Abakumov, the head of the "Smersh" counterintelligence agency, as responsible for the execution and cover-up. It said the Rus-

sian secretaries to the Swedish diplomatic legation was a cover for his true mission as secret emissary of the U.S. War Refugee Board, created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a belated attempt to stem the annihilation of Europe's Jews.

In the previous two months, 440,000 Hungarian Jews had been shipped to Auschwitz for

Report: Clemens had relationship with Mindy McCready

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Clemens had a decade-long relationship with country star Mindy McCready that began when she was a 15-year-old aspiring singer and the pitcher was a Boston Red Sox ace, the Daily News reported.

"I cannot refute anything in the story," McCready told the newspaper in a story posted on its Web site Monday night.

"I have known Roger Clemens for a long time," she said, without detailing the nature of their relationship.

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, confirmed the pitcher and singer had known each other for a long time but told the newspaper there was no sex.

"Mindy McCready is a longtime family friend of Roger Clemens and the Clemens family," Hardin said in a statement Monday. "At no time did Roger engage in any kind of inappropriate or improper relationship with her. It is unfortunate that the Daily News has chosen to report

See REPORT on Page 21



In this Aug. 22, 2006 file photo, Country singer Mindy McCready answers questions outside the courtroom in Franklin, Tenn.

SCHOLARS

From Page 19

a rival to the OSS known only to Roosevelt and a few insiders in the War and State Departments.

A small clandestine intelligence-gathering operation, the Pond relied on contacts in private corporations and hand-picked embassy personnel. It worked closely with the Dutch electronics company N.V. Philips, "which had access to 'enemy' territory as well as a far-flung corporation intelligence apparatus in its own right," said former CIA analyst Mark Stout who wrote a brief unofficial history of the Pond.

So far, no evidence has emerged that Wallenberg worked for the Pond, and Stout said in an interview he had not seen Wallenberg mentioned in any papers he has reviewed.

But their circles of contacts intersected at several points, including members of the Hungarian resistance and possibly the Philips connection.

"The Pond was centered around President Roosevelt's office and rumors of a special mission, intelligence or otherwise, for Raoul Wallenberg have persisted through the years," said Berger, who suspects the Soviets knew about the agency.

It may have been just one more reason for Stalin to order his arrest, she said. Regardless of whether Wallenberg was involved, "the Pond's activities clearly would have served to enhance Soviet paranoia about Allied activities and aims in Hungary."

Hungarian historian Laszlo Ritter, of the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, said the Philips company also was providing cover for Britain's MI6 intelligence service. One of its crucial agents in the Balkans was Lolle Smit, who was knighted after the war by both Britain and his native Holland.

One month before Wallenberg arrived, Smit fled Budapest for Romania, from where he continued to control his network, Ritter said, but he left his family behind.

Smit's daughter, Berber Smit, worked with Wallenberg in his rescue efforts—and "had a romance with him," according to her son, Alan Hogg.

Ritter said Hungarian war files show no direct tie between Wallenberg and Smit, or between the diplomat and British intelligence. At the same time, MI6 used the Swedish legation at least twice to smuggle out information, and helped give false papers to Jews and the anti-fascist resistance, he said.

When the OSS wanted to dispatch a radio to the Hungarian underground leader Geza Soos, it sent the transmitter with a Swedish intelligence officer and told him Wallenberg would know how to contact Soos.

Wallenberg's very name may have been enough to arouse Russian distrust. Throughout the war, his cousins Marcus and

Jacob Wallenberg, the czars of a banking and industrial empire, had done business in Germany, producing the ball bearings that kept its army on the move.

The Wallenbergs also were involved in discreet, unsuccessful peace efforts between the Allies and Germany, which Stalin feared would leave him excluded—a foretaste of global realignment that would lead to the Cold War.

■ ■ ■
In December 1993, investigator Marvin Makinen of the University of Chicago interviewed Varvara Larina, a retired orderly at Moscow's Vladimir Prison since 1946. She remembered a foreigner who was kept in solitary confinement on the third floor of Korpus 2, a building used both as a hospital and isolation ward.

Though it was decades earlier, the prisoner stood out in Larina's memory. He spoke Russian with an accent and "complained about everything," she said. He repeatedly griped that the soup was cold by the time Larina delivered it. Prison authorities ordered her to serve him first.

"This is very unusual," Makinen said in an interview. Normally, such complaints would condemn an inmate to a punishment cell. "The fact that he wasn't means he was a very special prisoner."

When shown a gallery of photographs, Larina immediately picked out Wallenberg's—one never published before, Makinen said.

She recalled he was in the opposite cell when another prisoner, Kirill Osmak, died in May 1960.

That was enough for Makinen and Chicago colleague Ari Kaplan to roughly pinpoint the cell of Larina's foreigner. Creating a database of cell occupancy from the prison's registration cards, they found two units opposite Osmak's that were reported empty for 243 and 717 days respectively.

Normally, cells were left vacant for a week at most, Makinen said. The researchers concluded that those two cells likely held special prisoners, namelessly concealed in the gulag.

Mesinai and others reviewed hundreds of accounts over the decades of people who claimed to have seen or heard of someone who could have been Wallenberg. They established a pattern of sightings, even though many individual reports were considered unreliable, uncorroborated, deliberate hoaxes or cases of mistaken identity with other Swedish prisoners.

Some stories, like Larina's, ring particularly true.

One compelling account came in 1961. Swedish physician Nanna Svartz asked an eminent Russian scientist about Wallenberg during a medical congress in Moscow. Lowering his voice, the Russian told her that Wallenberg was at a psychiatric hospital and "not in very good shape."

The Russian, Alexandre Myasnikov, later claimed he had been

misunderstood, but Svartz stood firm. His remark, she later reported, "came spontaneously. He went pale as soon as he said it, and appeared to understand that he had said too much."

A few years later the Soviets sent out feelers for a possible spy swap. Envoy indicated Moscow was ready to "compensate" Sweden if it freed Stig Wennerstromm, a Swedish air force officer who had spied for the Kremlin for 15 years.

Though Wallenberg's name was never mentioned, he was considered the only prize worth exchanging for such a high-value spy. The intermediary was Wolfgang Vogel, an East German lawyer who engineered many Cold War prisoner exchanges. But years of halfhearted negotiation ended in no deal.

■ ■ ■
Nina Lagergren keeps a small wooden box in the cellar of her comfortable Stockholm home. The Russians gave it to her in 1989 when she visited Moscow. It contains her half-brother's diplomatic passport, a stack of currency, a Swedish license for the pistol he bought but never used, and two telephone diaries. Among the entries are Eichmann and Berber Smit, the daughter of the Dutch spy.

They also gave the family a copy of Wallenberg's "death certificate," handwritten and un stamped.

"They anticipated that I would get very moved and understand there was no more hope," Lagergren said.

Instead it reinforced her belief that Wallenberg had lived beyond 1947 and perhaps was even then alive. "This proved we could go on," she said. Today he would be 95, and she concedes he must be dead.

If indeed Wallenberg's death in 1947 was a lie, the question remains: Why was he never freed?

The 2001 Swedish report speculated that the longer he was held, the harder it was for the Soviets to release him. Still, "it would have been exceptional to order the execution of a diplomat from a neutral country. It might have appeared simpler to keep him in isolation," the report said.

The search continues.

Berger, the independent researcher, has submitted a new, detailed request to Moscow to release files on prisoners who shared cells with the missing diplomat and on other foreigners in the gulag. Mesinai hopes to study psychiatric facilities where Wallenberg may have been confined; Ritter, the Hungarian researcher, is tracing the British spy network of Lolle Smit; and historians are awaiting the release of the Pond papers.

Whatever any of this reveals, a 1979 State Department memo puts these questions into perspective: "Whether or not Wallenberg was involved in espionage during World War II is a moot point at this stage in history. His obvious humanitarian acts certainly outweigh any conceivable 'spy' mission he may have been on."

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late

Jeffrey Nakatsukasa Maratita



would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and Si Yu's Ma'ase to all our relatives and friends, both from near and afar who came to be with us and joined us in prayers at the nightly Holy Rosary and especially at the Mass of Christian Burial.

While we mourned on Jeffrey's untimely death, we are comforted by your support, words of condolences, kindness and generosity of yourself in sharing your time to be with us during our time of sorrow.

We extend our special thanks to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Jojo Santos, Fr. Manny Corcuera, Fr. Rey Rosal, Kristo Rai Choir, San Antonio Parish and altar servers, Santa Soledad Parish, Saipan Mayor and staff, CHC Doctors and Nurses, Fire Medics, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Techa - Janet U. Maratita, Congressman and Mrs. David M. Apatang, Juan Santiago and family, Senate Office, House of Representatives, CNMI Washington Rep., Division of Environmental Quality, United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, Global Environmental Consulting, Inc., and families from Rota, Guam, Tinian and U.S. mainland

To all—who have helped us in one way or another, please be assured that you will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

**Thomas C. Maratita and Family
Juliana D. de la Rosa and Children**



Spears reprises role on 'Mother'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears, who proved she's worth a cool million viewers to "How I Met Your Mother," is paying another visit to the CBS sitcom. Spears will reprise her role as bubbly secretary Abby in the May 12 episode, CBS said Monday.

"We're all so thrilled to have Britney joining us once again," series executive producer and co-creator Craig Thomas said in a statement.

"And just to head it off at the pass this time around: Yes, Mom, Britney's very nice and no, I can't get her autograph for you," Thomas added, jokingly.

Spears' appearance in the March 24 episode won her good reviews and boosted the show's viewership to 10.6 million viewers, in comparison to the 9.6 million who had tuned in the previous week.

When last seen, Abby was flirting with womanizer Barney (cast member Neil Patrick Harris). The new episode, which began production Monday, has Abby and Barney sharing their mutual dislike of Ted (cast



In this image released by CBS, Josh Radnor, left, speaks to Britney Spears, who portrays receptionist Abby, in a scene from "How I Met Your Mother," which aired on March 24, 2008.

member Josh Radnor) and acting on it.

"Desperate to get a rise out of his former pal, Barney pops a surprising question to Abby," CBS said in a release.

"How I Met Your Mother" stars Harris, Radnor, Cobie Smulders, Alyson Hannigan and Jason Segel ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall") as an urban family of 20-something New Yorkers.

The pop star's camp originally approached the show about taking part, executive producer Carter Bays told The Associated Press earlier this month.



Stone Temple Pilots singer in DUI case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rocker Scott Weiland has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor drunken driving charge and was sentenced to eight days in jail.

Weiland entered the plea through his attorney in a Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday. He also was sentenced to four years probation and must take part in an 18-month alcohol program.

Weiland came to fame as the lead

In this October 2006 file photo, singer Scott Weiland of the rock group Velvet Revolver poses at a red carpet event in Los Angeles.

AP

singer of 1990s rockers Stone Temple Pilots, who reformed after Weiland split this month from Velvet Revolver, a band also featuring former members of Guns N' Roses.

Stone Temple Pilots are scheduled to embark on a 65-city tour on May 17. Weiland must serve his jail time by May 28.

Weiland was arrested Nov. 21 on a San Fernando Valley freeway off-ramp.

It was the second DUI conviction for Weiland, 40, who has been dogged by substance problems throughout his career.

Coldplay offers free download of new single

LONDON (AP)—Coldplay will make the first single from their new album available as a free download to fans who visit the English band's Web site.

"Violet Hill," the first single from "Viva La Vida," will

be available on <http://www.coldplay.com> from 7:15 a.m. EDT Tuesday, one week before it goes on sale at digital retailers.

It will be available as a free download from the Web site for

one week, a statement said.

The Web site will also give preliminary details about free shows at London's Brixton Academy on June 16 and at New York's Madison Square Garden on June 23.

Coldplay also announced Monday that the UK release of their new album has been moved up four days to June 12. That's the same day the album will be released in much of the world.

used performance-enhancing substances during his major league career.

"If true, it's just another example of Roger's pervasive prevarications which will be at the core of any defamation case," said McNamee's attorney, Richard Emery, in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

"If the case heads to trial and is not dismissed, as we feel it should be, we will be calling (McCready) as a witness," Emery told the News.

The newspaper said Clemens sent cash to McCready to help her with legal issues and reached out to her when she

was in jail last year in Tennessee. Clemens sometimes sent her amounts of \$25,000, the paper said.

The 32-year-old McCready was sentenced last September for violating probation from a 2004 drug arrest and was released from jail last Dec. 30. The violation occurred in July when McCready was accused of scuffling with her mother and resisting arrest at her mother's home in Fort Myers, Fla. She still must serve two years' probation.

McCready had a No. 1 single in 1996 with "Guys Do It All the Time."

REPORT

From Page 20

anonymous allegations that are completely unfounded, have no basis in fact, and have nothing to do with Roger's baseball career or the issue of steroid use in baseball."

The News' original story, which appeared on the newspaper's Web site Sunday night and in editions Monday, quoted several people who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Clemens was 28 and a married father of two when he first

met McCready, the newspaper reported.

In its story Monday night, sources told the News that McCready went with Clemens to his hotel room in Fort Myers, Fla., after their first meeting but that they did not have sex. The relationship turned intimate after she later moved to Nashville and became a country star, the paper said.

The story could undermine Clemens' reputation, which is central to the defamation suit the former pitcher has filed against former personal trainer Brian McNamee. McNamee contends Clemens

Mother living in servitude suffers for uncertain future

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

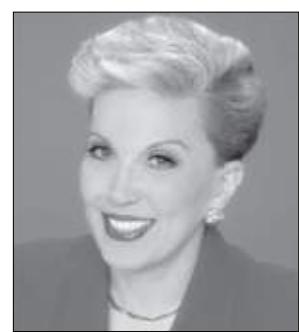
DEAR ABBY: My mother needs help, but will not listen to my brother or me. She has always respected your advice, and she needs it desperately now.

Mama is a retired nurse. A little over a year ago, she moved from Florida to Virginia to live with her boyfriend, "Rudy." Rudy is extremely wealthy. He owns three homes and commercial real estate. However, he suffers from mental illness. Mama has told us that Rudy is bipolar. He also has no respect for women. He orders her around, and she must answer "Yes, sir" or "No, sir." Even though this man has millions, he and Mama are living in one room above a barn.

Rudy's wife died several years ago. He has two sons, neither of whom speak to him. Mama says she moved from her lovely home to live with him because she's "looking at the big picture." Because Rudy is wealthy, she wants us to benefit from what he has, even if she doesn't.

My brother and I can't bear her living like this. Their room has limited plumbing and—to put it politely—it smells. There is also evidence of rodents. Please, Abby, how can we make Mama see what she's doing to herself and to us? We love her. We don't want her to sacrifice her last years for our future financial comfort.

—HURTING FOR MOM



Dear Abby

DEAR HURTING: Please forgive me if this seems harsh. Your mother is living in squalor with a rich man who treats her like an employee, and she thinks it will somehow benefit YOU? She is seriously misguided. Because your mother and Rudy are both adults, and presumably not a danger to themselves or to others, it could take a crowbar to separate them.

However, if you want your mother out of there, talk to his sons about what's going on and your feelings about it. I'll bet they'll not only start speaking to their father, she'll be out of there in a jiffy.

DEAR ABBY: I have an etiquette question. Is it impolite to ask a member of the royal family for an autograph?

—FAN IN DE BARY, FLA.

DEAR FAN: My experts tell me that to approach a royal in such a fashion would be highly inappropriate, and no one does it. However, in recent years, some upper lips may have become less stiffened. Therefore, it might be all right to ask a young prince—but don't ask an old queen.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and have a stepsister, "Emily," who is also 16. We have become good friends, which is lucky because we share a room every other weekend when I am at my father's.

Something really bothers me. I refer to Emily as my sister. However, she calls me her STEPSISTER. I have told her it hurts my feelings, and asked if we couldn't just consider each other as sisters. She says she thinks of me as a close friend, but isn't comfortable calling me "sister" because technically we're not.

I have always wanted a sister. How can I get Emily to consider me hers?

—RELATED IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

DEAR RELATED: As close as you feel to Emily, and as much as you want a sister, you can't force another person into it. I have known unrelated girlfriends to refer to each other as "sisters." However, for whatever reason, it is important to Emily to maintain some distance and make the distinction that you're not blood-related.

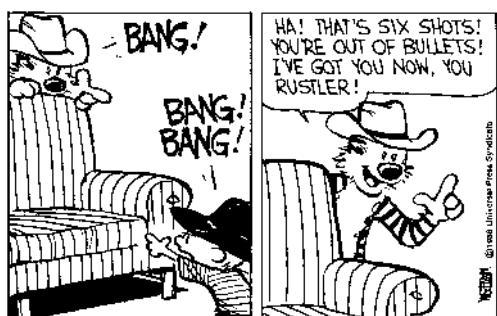
Frankly, it's her loss. Don't push her; continue to love her, and perhaps one day she'll realize how fortunate she is to have someone as sweet as you in her life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



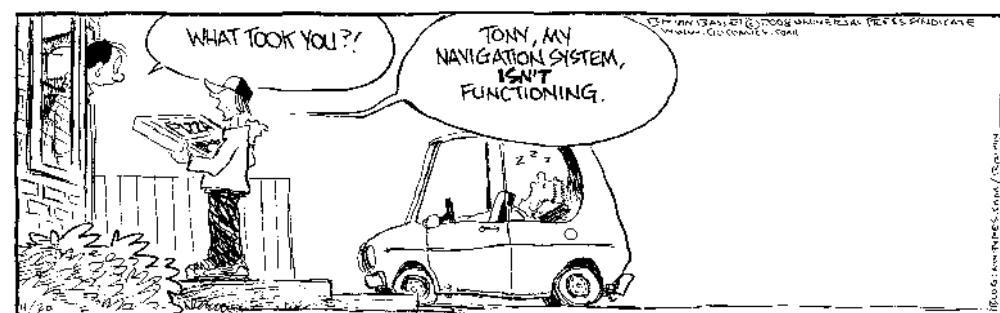
Garfield®



By Jim Davis

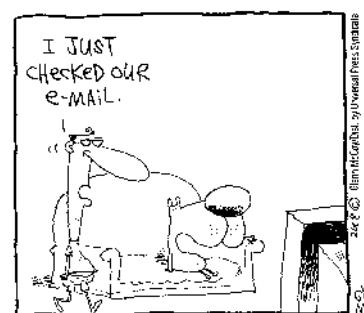


Adam@home

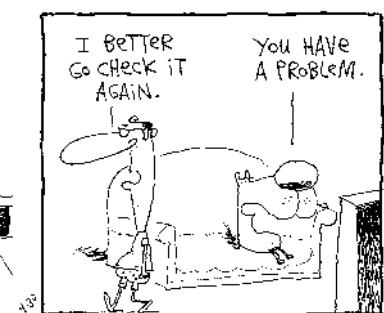


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Gun the engine	59 Quest for adventure	20 Wet wiggler
1 Mast	40 Stocking stuffer?	23 Acknowledge	21
5 Dirigible filler	41 PC picture	24 Lennon's lady	22
8 Cry loudly	43 Melody	25 Harshness	23
12 African gully	45 Prisoner	27 Neither partner	24
13 Illustrations	47 Theater district	29 Sticky stuff	25
14 Reverberate	51 Aerobic stunt	30 Lamb's dam	26
15 Mexican resort city	52 Direct, vigorous participation for a cause	32 AWOL, in a sense	27
17 "Dead man's hand" pair	54 Unrivaled	34 Encourage	28
18 Sanaa dweller	55 Chart format	37 Young 'un	29
19 Tiny	56 Historic periods	39 Henry —	30
21 Zilch	57 Terrier type	42 Minimum range	31
22 Fax	58 — last	44 "Bolero" composer	32
23 Feathery accessory	Francisco 16	45 Misfortunes	33
26 X rating?	Monad	46 Recess	34
28 Loyal subject	Solution time: 21 mins.	48 Turkish money	35
31 Formerly	ACME ALI FAUL	49 Authoritarian ruler	36
33 Reaction of awe	CHIN MAR OGRE	50 Russian city	37
35 Recognize	HO D BACK LOSE	53 Espionage org.	38
36 Bottom of the rankings	YUK USE EDGAR		39
	MCCOY DENIZEN		40
	OPAL JOG GOGO		
	WADDLES SHOOT		
	WIT FAT		
	PLEAT PIN AADS		
	LIT HOLDSWAY		
	ESSE ILL EARN		
	APEH JOY YIKE		
	Yesterdays answer		4-30

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterdays answer 4-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Kirsten Dunst, 26; Jeff Timmons, 35; Isiah Thomas, 47; Willie Nelson, 75

Happy Birthday: Kind words and thoughts will go a long way this year. This is a good year to diversify and to make your money grow. A trip will open your mind to new concepts, activities and endeavors. Your charm will help you out in the romance department, whether you are single or in a relationship. Your numbers are 2, 10, 21, 24, 27, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may be able to fool someone into thinking you know more than you do but eventually you will have to brush up on your skills. Don't discuss an emotional matter around anyone not directly involved. ☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A little charm, generosity and selflessness will go a long way. Someone you least expect will praise and support what you want to do. An older friend or relative will put things in perspective so that you understand what you are up against. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Jumping to conclusions or saying you can do something impossible will not bode well. Let things unfold naturally. A look at your attributes may lead to a better position but remember, you may have to pick up some new additional credentials. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't waste time. The more hard-headed you are about advancement and following

through with your plans, the further you will go professionally and personally. Once you get started, you will be difficult to stop. ☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't try to buy love or let it cost you. Work at your own pace and on your own goals. Keep your plans undercover. A contract or offer will need adjustments before you can move forward. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Plans to have some fun with someone special should be in the works but not at the expense of a responsibility you have to fulfill. Make sure the person to whom you are making a commitment is on the same page. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get all worked up over nothing. Leave any trivial matters or minor problems with people alone. Everyone is likely to overreact, overindulge or argue for the sake of arguing, making matters worse. Avoid controversy. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do whatever it takes to stand out or to be unique in your field. It will be originality that leads to success. Don't let anyone push you or lead you to believe you have to do things differently. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone may tamper with your heart and your emotions. Hide your feelings and take note of what's going on. If you don't like the way you are being treated, call it as you see it and move on. Protect your heart and your bankbook. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is a lot going on that will tie you to your past. Don't be afraid to look back if it will help you get ahead. You know what's best for yourself and what you can handle. Money is in the picture and redecorating will turn out well. ☀

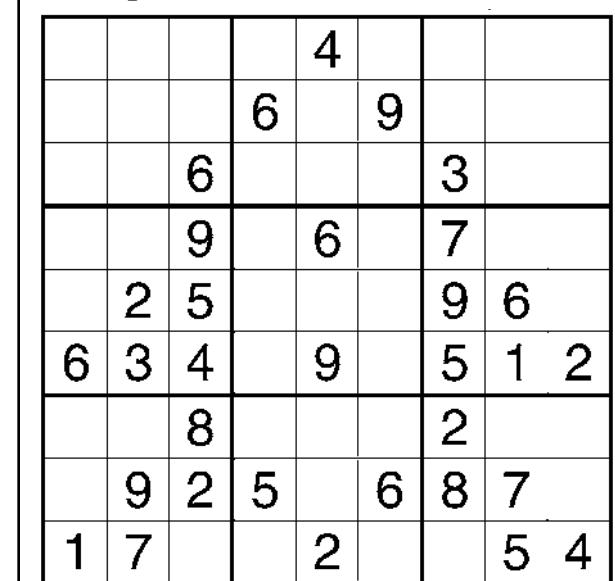
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what you can to talk your way in or out of a situation you don't want to face. Now is not the time to gamble with your heart or your money. Love is in the stars—be honest or trouble will follow. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Remain calm or someone will think you are unpredictable and unreliable. Personal and professional gains can be made but only if you are responsible and quick to react. You will be a competitive participant. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are a great storyteller. You are quick to react and have a great memory. You use past experience to help you get ahead. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

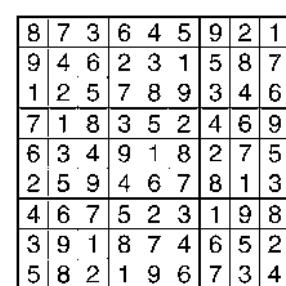
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RED INK

S	L	D	S	C	I	T	S	I	T	A	T	S	S	O
D	I	M	E	T	S	Y	S	C	R	E	P	O	R	T
R	A	S	I	B	S	P	E	S	O	E	E	G	E	E
O	B	M	Y	S	I	O	E	N	N	M	A	S	B	G
W	I	A	A	L	M	T	C	D	O	N	P	M	M	D
O	L	R	S	G	A	A	I	C	I	M	I	A	U	U
R	I	K	O	R	E	N	Z	E	S	C	L	N	B	
T	T	E	E	R	G	I	A	A	T	C	O	F	Y	
H	I	T	C	N	R	T	N	A	G	L	I	E	E	
O	E	I	N	W	I	E	K	V	M	E	U	R	O	Z
W	S	R	A	O	H	E	F	A	E	O	L	A	P	E
I	A	W	N	D	S	T	U	L	R	S	U	A	F	E
N	E	L	I	F	A	B	N	U	R	E	T	N	S	U
G	O	F	F	I	C	E	D	E	F	I	C	T	Q	
C	T	N	I	A	R	D	S	E	D	B	I	L	L	S

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Amount, Analysis, Bills, Budget, Cash, Company, Costs, Damage, Debit, Debt, Deficit, Down, Drain, Error, Fault, File, Finance, Flaw, Flop, Funds, Income, Invest, Liabilities, Market, Mismanage, Mistake, Morey, Numbers, Office, Organization, Owning, Price, Rates, Report, Sale, Slip, Smaller, Spending, Squeeze, Statistics, System, Value, Words, Worth, Write
Yesterday's Answer: Bonding

Treasury 5% bond: \$100,000 at 5% earn \$2,500 interest and funding costs \$114,200 total cost.

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STUMPED?

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- A screenshot of the homepage showing a search bar and navigation links.
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- A screenshot of the job vacancies section titled "JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT".
- A screenshot of the Sunday edition of the newspaper with the headline "Liquidated Fund assets".

Riley resigns, names Spoelstra as new head coach



MIAMI (AP)—Pat Riley's worst season as coach of the Miami Heat will be his last. The Hall of Famer resigned as coach Monday but remains team president. Erik Spoelstra, a 37-year-old assistant, will succeed Riley and become the NBA's youngest current coach. Spoelstra has never been a head coach at any level outside the NBA's summer league.

Miami finished the season with the NBA's poorest record (15-67) and, by far, the worst of Riley's 25-year career.

"I look forward to the challenge," said Spoelstra, who received word of the decision over the weekend.

As president, Riley will continue overseeing the plan to rebuild a franchise that's just two years removed from a championship, after deciding that he'd best benefit the franchise by working exclusively from the front office.

The on-court duties now belong to Spoelstra, who started in the Heat video room in 1995.

"While we are always looking for NBA talent to perform on the court, the most important talent that you may find has to perform on the bench, in the locker room, late at night, watching film, motivating and executing all the responsibilities of a head coach," Riley said. "I believe Erik Spoelstra is one of the most talented young coaches to come around in a long time."

Riley's future was among many major issues awaiting Miami this offseason. The Heat could have the No. 1 pick in the draft, are assured a top-four pick and are certain to make moves in an effort to revamp a roster plagued by injuries.

"Pat Riley has instilled in me values that enabled me to win a championship in just three seasons," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said Monday. "I've seen him do the necessary things to make us winners and I believe that with his focus on being president and his commitment to the team, we will once again become a contender."



Van Gundy remained coach for two-plus seasons, resigning 21 games into the 2005-06 campaign. Riley replaced his former protege on the bench and engineered Miami's march to the 2006 championship.

But the Heat have gone 59-105 in regular-season games since, the second-biggest two-year fall by a championship team in NBA history.

"I've worked for a great leader, a Hall of Fame coach and someone who's been a great mentor to me for 13 years," Spoelstra said. "It's been a great relationship."

Riley started his head coaching career with the Los Angeles Lakers, winning a championship in his first season with a team led by Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. He also took the New York Knicks to the NBA finals before coming to Miami in 1995, where on the day he was introduced he famously talked about envisioning a championship parade down Biscayne Boulevard.

Eleven years later, that vision became reality. And if it happens again, it'll come with Riley watching from off the court.

Riley's last game was the Heat finale on April 16, a win over the Atlanta Hawks. If he knew that would be his last time on an NBA sideline, he didn't tip his hand that night.

The final buzzer sounded, Riley waved to the Hawks' bench and walked briskly through the tunnel leading to the locker room.

No last look around, no grand gesture, just a nondescript exit to one of the NBA's most glamorous coaching careers.

"I made a point 25 years ago when I started coaching, made a point to myself and a promise to myself and more than anything else to the game that if I could never give everything I have to the game that I need to give, then I know it's time for me to step aside," Riley said.

Newly named Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra, right, shakes hands with former coach Pat Riley, left, following a news conference in Miami Monday, April 28, 2008.

Wade has worked extensively with Spoelstra in practices and 1-on-1 sessions.

"I believe in Coach Spo and have complete confidence that our team will succeed with him at the helm," Wade said.

Spoelstra indicated he would like to keep assistants Ron Rothstein, Bob McAdoo and Keith Askins.

Unless he comes back—he has once before—Riley finishes his career with 1,210 victories, third most in NBA history behind Lenny Wilkens and Don Nelson. He won seven championships in all, five as a head coach, one as an assistant and one as a player, and was voted into the 2008 Hall of Fame class this month. His induction is Sept. 5.

"Today, I am definitely sure that I don't

want to do this anymore," Riley said.

The rebuilding process will still be his primary focus.

Riley essentially began that job in February when he traded disgruntled center Shaquille O'Neal to the Phoenix Suns. The move not only rid the team of a player who didn't want to remain in Miami, but gave the Heat some salary-cap room that wouldn't otherwise have been available until O'Neal's contract expired in 2010.

"Regardless if Pat is coaching or not, I think he'll still have a lot of say-so in what goes on around here," Heat forward Shawn Marion, who was acquired in that trade for O'Neal, said this month.

Spoelstra came to the Heat in 1995

as video coordinator and was promoted to assistant coach/video coordinator two years later. In recent years, many team insiders considered Spoelstra as the person Riley would promote when he deemed the time was right.

That time was Monday.

"This game is now about younger coaches who are technologically skilled, innovative and bring fresh new ideas," Riley said. "That's what we feel we are getting with Erik Spoelstra. He's a man that was born to coach."

It's a tactic Riley used before. He stepped down days before the 2003-04 season began, walking into then-assistant coach Stan Van Gundy's office one morning and asking him, "You ready?"

Johnson, Hawks stun mighty Celtics to even series

ATLANTA (AP)—Forget about a Boston sweep. The Hawks are headed back to Beantown all tied up with the mighty Celtics. Joe Johnson scored 35 points—20 in the fourth quarter—and Josh Smith added 28 points and seven blocks for Atlanta, which surprised the Celtics again 97-92 on Monday night to even the best-of-seven series at two games apiece.

A Game 5 that many never expected to happen is now on, Wednesday night in Boston.

The Hawks, who had the worst record (37-45) of any playoff team, overcame two double-digit deficits to beat a team that won an NBA-leading 66 games during the regular season.

The credit for this Atlanta stunner goes largely to Johnson, who took control in the final quarter. After Smith's jumper put the Hawks ahead to stay 81-79, Johnson scored nine straight points to keep the Celtics on the ropes.

The knockout came when Paul Pierce drove to the hoop and left it short, then tumbled over a cameraman alongside the basket. When the Boston star finally climbed back to his feet, he had a look of disbelief—which pretty much sums up the way the Celtics are feeling about this series.

Smith went to the other end and made two free throws with 26 seconds remaining for 93-87 lead. Johnson—appropriately enough—finished off the Celtics by making two more foul shots with 14 seconds left.

Ray Allen led Boston with 21 points, and Kevin Garnett added 20.

Smith set an Atlanta playoff record with seven blocks, the last of them a key swat on Garnett after he backed down in the lane, looking for the easy shot, with just over 3 minutes left.

"It's time to shock the world," the public address announcer screamed to the sellout crowd of 20,016.

After getting blown out in the first two games, Atlanta turned feisty on its home court. Rookie Al Horford taunted Pierce after putting the Celtics away in Game 3, prompting the Boston forward to flash a menacing gesture that drew a \$25,000 fine from the NBA shortly before Game 4.

Then, with 7 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter, things really got testy. Garnett threw an elbow at Zaza Pachulia while going for a loose ball. The rugged Pachulia got right in Garnett's face, going forehead to forehead with the Boston star.

The officials stepped in quickly and Hawks coach Mike Woodson charged

onto the court to pull his players away. No punches were thrown and no one was ejected, though the officials did call offsetting technical fouls—two on each team—after looking at a replay.

Boston started like it was going to be a blowout.

The Hawks missed four shots and turned it over three times before finally hitting their first field goal of the game, Smith's 20-foot jumper with just under 7 minutes left in the first. Boston, on the other hand, hit six of its first seven shots—four from outside the 3-point arc—and built a 16-3 lead before the Hawks knew what hit them.

The NBA's youngest playoff team was on the ropes, but it didn't fold. Atlanta closed the period on a 20-3 run, taking a 29-24 lead to the second quarter.

The Hawks led 51-48 at halftime, only to put themselves in another hole with a dismal third quarter. Standing around on offense and doing little to create shots, Atlanta was 6-of-17 from the field, missed all seven of its 3-point attempts and turned it over seven times, giving Boston plenty of easy baskets.

Garnett scored nine points in the period to lead the Celtics, who went to the fourth with a 75-65 lead.

But the Hawks bounced back again.

Johnson shot 7-of-10, including a couple of 3s, and Smith scored 12 points in the final period.

Coming off an unexpected 102-93 win in Game 3, the city was actually fired up about its long-forgotten NBA team. Woodson said he actually noticed some motorists flying Hawks flags on their cars as he drove to Philips Arena, something he hadn't seen in his four years as coach.

Former owner Ted Turner even showed up for the first time in years, sitting at courtside and waving a white Hawks towel.

Magic 102, Raptors 92

At Orlando, Dwight Howard had 21 points and 21 rebounds and the Orlando Magic advanced to the NBA second-round playoffs for the first time in 12 years, beating the Toronto Raptors.

It was Howard's third game with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in the first-round series.

Raptors star Chris Bosh had 16 points and nine rebounds.

The Magic will play the winner of the Detroit-Philadelphia series, which is tied 2-2, in the Eastern Conference quarterfinals.

Keith Bogans and Jameer Nelson

each hit a 3-pointer and Howard added a layup as the Magic used an 8-0 run over a 3:13 span to open a 92-82 lead.

Nelson scored 19 points for Orlando and Rashard Lewis had 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Lakers 107, Nuggets 101

At Denver, Kobe Bryant scored 14 of his 31 points over the final 5 1/2 minutes to lead Los Angeles to a sweep of their first-round series against Denver.

Pau Gasol added 21 points in the Lakers' first sweep of a playoff series since whitewashing New Jersey in the 2002 NBA finals, the last time they won it all.

J.R. Smith scored 26 points for the Nuggets, who became the first 50-win team to ever be swept in the first round of the playoffs.

The Lakers will meet the winner of the Utah-Houston series, which the Jazz lead 3-1, in the Western Conference semifinals.

Bryant scored nine straight points to give the Lakers a 97-96 lead. Luke Walton's wide-open 3 gave the Lakers a 100-96 lead with 2:37 left.

Marcus Camby's first points since the series shifted to Denver came on a 3-pointer with 33 seconds left, cutting the Lakers' lead to 103-101, but Gasol dunked and Bryant added two free throws with 18 seconds left.

Turkoglu wins most improved player award



Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu (15), of Turkey, makes a shot in front of Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh during the second half of Game 2 in an NBA Eastern Conference playoff basketball series in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, April 22, 2008.



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Hedo Turkoglu, whose 19 points, five rebounds and five assists per game helped the Orlando Magic win their first division title in 12 years, was selected as the NBA's most improved player Monday.

Turkoglu's numbers marked career highs in each category, and dramatic improvements from 13 points, four rebounds and three assists last season. He earned back-to-back Eastern Conference player of the week awards in late January

and early February and was named player of the month for April.

This was the type of season the Magic always expected from the 6-foot-10 forward, now in his eighth year.

"Without him, I don't know where we would be," Magic general manager Otis Smith said. "I am happy to have him on our team and I'm happy that he is winning this award eight years late, but I am happy that he is at least winning this award. This is a sign of things to come for Turk."

Turkoglu received 61 first-place votes and 380 points in the voting by

Mussina, Yankees do just enough for 5-2 win over Indians



CLEVELAND (AP)—Mike Mussina earned his 253rd win, tying Hall of Famer Carl Hubbell on the majors' career list, and the New York Yankees made the most of their five hits in a 5-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Monday.

Mussina (3-3) allowed two runs and seven hits in five innings, just long enough to catch Hubbell for 41st place.

Mussina was followed by Jonathan Albaladejo, Kyle Farnsworth, Joba Chamberlain and Mariano Rivera, who worked the ninth for his eighth save in eight tries.

Hideki Matsui had two RBIs as New York earned a split of the four-game series after losing the first two. The club will now head back to the comforts of Yankee Stadium after playing 18 games on the road in April—the most by any team in the month.

Held without a hit for five innings by Aaron Laffey (0-1), who was called up to make his

season debut for Cleveland, the Yankees strung together four hits—three of them didn't leave the infield—two groundouts and a hit batter to score four times in the sixth and take a 4-2 lead.

Earlier, the Yankees placed durable catcher Jorge Posada (shoulder) on the disabled list for the first time in his career.

Orioles 3, White Sox 3, 11 innings, suspended

At Chicago, rain forced Baltimore and Chicago to start 2 hours late and stop late without a winner.

The game will resume at the beginning of the 12th later this season, but no date was set. All the statistics count.

Baltimore tied the game at 2-2 in the ninth off Chicago's Bobby Jenks on Melvin Mora's RBI single following a leadoff double and stolen base by Brian Roberts.

Ramon Hernandez homered off Scott Linebrink in the top

of the 11th to give the Orioles a 3-2 lead.

But Juan Uribe hit a solo homer in the 11th off Baltimore closer George Sherrill, his first blown save in 10 chances this year.

A daylong rain puddled the muddy infield, so umpires called for the tarp after the inning and moments later came an announcement that the game was suspended.

Athletics 14, Angels 2

At Anaheim, California, Frank Thomas tripled for the first time in six years, Daric Barton hit a three-run homer and Oakland took over the American League West lead from Los Angeles by routing the defending division champions in the opener of a four-game series.

Jack Hannahan and Emil Brown also homered for the Athletics, who have won eight of 10. They came into this series with just 12 home runs through their first 26 games.

Chad Gaudin (3-1) breezed to his third straight victory, allow-

ing two runs—one earned—and five hits over six innings.

Jon Garland (3-3) yielded seven runs, 10 hits and three walks in six-plus innings. The right-hander is 0-5 in his last seven starts against Oakland, and 3-9 with a 5.01 ERA in 14 career starts against the A's.

Diamondback 5, Astros 3

At Phoenix, Dan Haren pitched into the eighth inning and hit an RBI double, leading the Arizona Diamondbacks past the Houston Astros.

Haren (4-1) scattered five hits over a season-high 7 2-3 innings and Mark Reynolds hit a two-run double for the Diamondbacks, who improved their major league-leading record to 19-7. Haren retired the side in order six times, finishing with five strikeouts and one walk.

Chad Qualls got the final out in the eighth inning and Brandon Lyon pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save in 10 chances.

Miguel Tejada had an RBI double for the Astros, who have lost three straight after a season-best six-game winning streak.

Chris Sampson (1-3) allowed five runs and seven hits over 4 1-3 innings.

Reds 4, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Edwin Encarnacion had a pair of RBI doubles and made a standout play at third base in the seventh inning to preserve a one-run lead in Cincinnati's victory over St. Louis.

Bronson Arroyo (1-3) worked six solid innings for the Reds, who won their first series opener after losing the first nine. Adam Dunn and Brandon Phillips had an RBI apiece to help Cincinnati win three in a row for the first time this season and even its record at 3-3 since Walt Jocketty became general manager.

Rick Ankiel hit his fifth home run for the Cardinals, for whom Jocketty served as GM the previous 13 seasons before getting fired last October. Albert Pujols

singled twice and walked, extending his hitting streak to 12 games, and has reached base in all 27 games to start the season.

Giants 4, Rockies 0

At San Francisco, Matt Cain got an early lead and his teammates held it, helping San Francisco's hard-luck pitcher to his first win of 2008 with a victory over slumping Colorado.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy moved past former San Francisco skipper Felipe Alou for most victories by a foreign-born manager in major league history with 1,034.

Aaron Rowand doubled and drove in two runs, including when he and Rich Aurilia each drew bases-loaded walks to force home a pair of insurance runs in the fifth.

Cain (1-2) pitched four-hit ball and walked five in 5 1-3 innings, ending a five-start winless stretch to start the year. Vinny Chulk, Tyler Walker and Brian Wilson finished the eight-hit shutout.

Person familiar with decision says Brown to coach Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Well-traveled Larry Brown has reached an agreement to return to the NBA as coach of the Charlotte Bobcats, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because an official announcement has not been made, said Brown was expected to sign a contract on Tuesday. The Bobcats called an afternoon news conference for what they termed a "major basketball announcement."

The 67-year-old Hall of Famer will be taking over his ninth NBA team, and it will be his first coaching job since a messy exit from the New York Knicks in 2006. Brown will replace Sam Vincent, fired on Saturday after going 32-50 in his one season.

Reached early Tuesday, Vincent said he wasn't surprised that part-owner Michael Jordan decided to bring in a veteran coach.

"Michael never said that he was hiring coach Brown. He just said they were going to make some decisions that were in the best interest of the organization," Vincent said. "So I kind of assumed of going in the direction of hiring a veteran coach and someone who was very popular in the community."

Brown's agent, Joe Glass, refused to confirm or deny that his client was headed to Charlotte.

"I have no information on Larry Brown," Glass said early Tuesday.

Brown won the NBA championship with Detroit in 2004 and the NCAA title with Kansas in 1988. He resigned last week as executive vice president of the Philadelphia 76ers, and Glass indicated Brown wanted to return to coaching.

The move means Jordan has turned to a fellow former North Carolina Tar Heel to try to get the fourth-year Bob-

cats into the playoffs for the first time. Jordan and Brown both played for former North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

Brown, inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002, is one of five NBA coaches with at least 1,000 victories.

While he's had contentious splits with several teams, he's had success at nearly every job before his poor season with the Knicks in 2005-06.

Terms of Brown's deal in Charlotte were uncertain. But it's likely he will get a much larger salary than Vincent. Having never coached in the NBA before, Vincent made about \$1.5 million this season. He has one year left on a two-year contract.

"I wish coach Brown all the success in the world," Vincent said. "I think he'll have a great group of guys and I wish him nothing but the best."

Vincent entered the job last spring confident, saying he'd be "incredibly discouraged and disappointed" if the fourth-year franchise didn't reach the playoffs.

But Vincent struggled to develop a steady rotation and often clashed with players. The Bobcats finished with one fewer win than in 2006-07 under Bernie Bickerstaff, who moved to a front-office position.

Vincent's firing marked the second time in Jordan's checkered history as an NBA executive that one of his coaches lasted only one season. Leonard Hamilton resigned after going 19-63 with the Washington Wizards in 2000-01.

Jordan was eventually fired by the Wizards. He bought a minority stake in the Bobcats in 2006 and took over the decision-making from Bickerstaff.

Now Jordan has turned to the veteran Brown to try to give a boost to the struggling Bobcats, who have also struggled to win over fans. The Bobcats ranked 24th out of 30 teams in attendance this season.

Tudela stars as G-Rollers I sinks G-Stars

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER


Zach Tudela starred for G-Rollers I as action in the Northern Youth Basketball Association 16-and-under League began Monday night at the Garapan Basketball court.

Tudela scored 14 points to lead G-Rollers I to an 81-64 win over G-Stars in the 16-and-under division. He also had five assists, seven steals, two rebounds, and a block shot.

Wenz Namelo and Patrick Torres scored 12 markers each and combined for 16 rebounds,

four assists, and four steals to support Tudela's game-long brilliance. Torres also had three block shots.

Brandon Aulerio and Tom Pangelinan came off the bench combining for 16 points, 13 assists, and 11 rebounds also for G-Rollers I.

Jason Palacios had a game-high 22 points to lead G-Stars' losing cause as he failed to get enough scoring support from his teammates. He also had one rebound, three assists, and four steals.

Dino Palacios was the lone G-Star who finished in double digits with 12 markers and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Joseph Jung scored eight points but collared 11 rebounds, while Ryan Ichihara finished with seven markers but had five steals.

Action continues today when the San Antonio Sixers battles the Kontenders at 7pm. On Friday, G-Rollers II clash with the Southern Sonics also at 7pm.

The 16-and-under league has three divisions, namely Division I or 12-and-under; Division II or 14-and-under; and Division III or 16-and-under.

Games in the NYBA 16-and-under league will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with makeup games to be

played every Saturday.

Last year, the G-Stars, G-Rollers, and San Antonio Sixers won their respective divisions against separate opponents.

For more information, call Roslyn Leon Guerrero at 483-5672 or Joe Diaz at 233-4646.

G-Rollers I 81 – Tudela 14, Namelo 12, Torres 12, Aulerio 9, Concepcion 9, Danas 8, Pangelinan 7, Lizama 4, Williams 3, Hambrose 2, Reyes 1.

G-Stars 64 – J. Palacios 22, D. Palacios 12, Jung 8, Kauz 8, Ichihara 7, Sablan 3, Deleon Guerrero 2, Manalili 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-27, 81-64.

which batted 13-for-22.

Mizer and Rabauliman combined for 4-for-4 in batting and blasted similar two-run home runs in the first and third innings.

Mizer also scored twice, had four RBIs, and a two-RBI double in the second inning. Rabauliman made three runs, had three RBIs, and an RBI double in the first.

Aguon went 2-for-3 with two runs, and a two-run four-bagger also in the first inning. Ray Tenorio went 2-for-2 with two runs and a double.

Camacho earned the loss as he gave up 13 hits in two innings of work with no strikeouts and allowed two walks.

Survivors 15, Little Lions 14

The Martha's Store Survivors lived up to their name, surviving a late surge by the Kagman Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos to squeeze out

a 15-14 win.

Vicente Cabrera earned the win for the Survivors, pitching one inning in relief, giving up two hits with one strikeout and four walks. He had plenty of run support from the Survivors led by Poland Masaharu's 3-for-4 performance at the plate.

Masaharu also scored three runs, had a double, and three RBIs. He had a two-RBI single in the third and an RBI double in the fifth.

Philip Sablan went 2-for-4 with two runs, a double, and two RBIs while Brel Yobech went 2-for-3 with two runs, and two RBIs. Gayvan Uchau, 1-for-3 scored twice and had two RBIs.

Braves 19, Hustlers II 4

Haimi Blas pitched three no-hit innings to lead the AA Ent/TCC World Braves of Tanapag to a 19-4 demolition of Hustlers II.

Frankie Lieto pitched one inning in relief, gave up all

the Hustlers II's earned runs on four hits with one strikeout and no walk.

Hustlers II first baseman Deferry Santos, with one out, had his first career grand slam when he homered off Lieto in the fourth inning to let Payton Liza-ma, Jonathan Villagomez, and James Kintaro, who all singled, reach home.

Ricky Joe Rengil continued with his hitting streak, going 4-for-4 at the plate with two runs, a triple, and five runs. He had a bases-clearing triple in the second and a two-RBI single in the fourth.

Lieto went 2-for-3 with four runs, a double, and two RBIs, while Nick Junior Jones and Lucio Kalen combined for 4-for-4 and five runs. Jones also had a triple while Kalen had an RBI single.

In the first game, the UMDA Hustlers I won by default against Dare JPO of Rep. Diego T. Benavente.

NMIFA

From Page 28

Italy and France in Berlin.

Present during the inauguration were EAFF secretary general Takeo Okeada, EAFF deputy secretary Alexandre Rego, EAFF technical study officer Ichiro Fujita, GFA officials, CNMI Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, and Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association

Michael A. White.

GFA, which assisted NMIFA in its growing stages, came in full force led by president Richard K. Lai.

GFA secretary general Valentino San Gil, treasurer George Lai, board member Frank Angoco, and executive committee member Kent Shieh were also present in the event.

The opening was held after the CNMI Women's National Team's game against Guam in

the Marianas Cup where they held their southern neighbors to a scoreless draw.

Tan said the office is not only for NMIFA officials' use for administrative purposes but it is also open for holding coaching and referee clinics as well as classroom training sessions for new players.

GFA president Lai also announced in the inauguration that EAFF would also give \$120,000 a year as assistance for football

development in the CNMI.

Lai, who heads the EAFF finance committee, said that as a provisional member, the CNMI is entitled to receive the annual grant that would increase to \$250,000 a year once the Commonwealth gets full FIFA membership.

He added that he hopes someday the Marianas Cup would expand in other Micronesian islands like Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia.

BUENABAJO

From Page 28

two free throws in the final second of the match that could have preserved the win for the Fixers, added 13 and 11 apiece.

The Pawnbrokers scored a sweep of sorts after Mark Wallace scored 34 points to lead their open division team escape with a 104-99 win over SMF Seabridge in the second game.

Manuel Ajoste had 31 markers to provide scoring support for Wallace, while Michael Olaitaman chipped in a modest 11 points.

Leo Itaas topscored for SMF with 33 points.

In the third game, Jonathan

Lim scored 21 points to lead three other players who finished in double figures as the Advance X-Terminators coasted to a 113-69 thrashing of Star Water.

Ron Gamboa scattered 16 points, while Kelvin Fitial and Edsel Mendoza chipped in 14 and 13 markers also for the X-Terminators, who scored their fourth straight win to join Ol'Aces on top of the standings.

Krisgel Arreza continued to be the Waterkings' main offensive threat, ending up with a game-high 35 points but failed to get ample support from his teammates. Art Salazar had 11.

First Game

GEC Pawnshop 75 – Casabue-

na 33, Rañola 17, Palero 7, Celes 6, Viola 4, Buenabajo 3, Culala 2, Olivos 2, Peredo 1.

Fxers 74 – Berline 15, Irinaka 13, Brostrom 11, Poland 7, Ruluk 7, Aguon 5, M. Alegre 4, Dela Torre 4, B. Valencia 4, Renguil 2, Salazar 2, Tamondong 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-23, 34-41, 51-61, 75-74.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Jess Pabula

Second Game

GEC Pawnshop 104 – Wallace 34, Ajoste 31, Olaitman 11, Camacho 6, Palero 6, Wesley 6, Cacho 5, Umali 5.

SMF Seabridge 99 – Itaas 33, Bernardo 29, Villacrusis 9, Lerio 7, Mortos 6, Capalad 4, Demig-

illo 4, Galvez 4, Delfin 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-21, 37-42, 66-69, 104-99.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Dado Vistal

Third Game

Advance X-Terminators 113 – Lim 21, Gamboa 16, Fitial 14, E. Mendoza 13, J. Mendoza 9, Chan 8, Dayrit 8, Estolas 8, Artates 6, De Dios 5, Barrios 4, Ruluk 1.

Star Water 69 – Arreza 35, Salazar 11, Gapor 7, Hernandez 5, R. Achas 3, Mateo 3, Villasan 3, M. Achas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-13, 61-31, 89-48, 113-69.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Jess Pabula

SPORTS BRIEFS

SGA May Ace this Sunday

The Saipan Golf Association will hold its May Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, May 4, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course. Check-in time for the club's fourth monthly competition of the year is 8:30am. Veteran golfers Mariano Fajardo, Joe Sablan, homerun menace Ned Norita, and last year's annual champion Larry Deleon Guerrero have bragging rights for the first four months of SGA's season as they secured the January, February, March, and April Ace titles, respectively. Slots are available for 24 players and SGA said first players to show up early, will definitely be the first to roll the grounds. For more information about SGA's April Ace of the Month Tournament, call SGA president Martin Sablan at 483-6278, vice president John Takai at 484-3045, or secretary Larry Guerrero at 287-1052. (*Mark Rabago*)

Loyola summer tennis meet on May 3

The 2008 season of the Loyola Tennis Tournament returns this May at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts. The tournament will be held on May 3 and 4 and on May 10 and 11 when singles matches will be held for kids and adults. Singles matches in the 13- and 9-and-under age divisions will be held on May 3 and 4 while on May 10 and 11 it will be the adults' turn to take the court. Last year, Elnathan Wong defeated Kevin Rhee to win the 9-and-under division, while Chris Park ruled the 13-and-under class by beating Kennedy Izuka. Lydia Tan led the women's winners when he topped the A class after beating Karen Ramsey. Class B defending champion was Yuri Hatamata when she defeated Sarah Yap in the finals. The Class C reigning titlist is Carol Auther with Sonal Rajeb-hosale placing second. For more information, call coach Peter B. Loyola at 285-3135 or email pbloyola@yahoo.com. (*Jon Perez*)

69

From Page 28

dent Bobby Winkfield, and NMASA Fall of Fame Mike Villagomez also served as coaches of the three-Saturday swim lessons.

Tsunami Saipan's April swimming lessons started last April 12 and were held the next two Saturdays after that, April 19 and 26. The next series of swim session offered by the one-year-old club will start in June 2008.

Aside from Good, Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation presi-

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	14	11	.560	–
Tampa Bay	14	11	.560	–
Boston	15	12	.556	–
New York	14	13	.519	1
Toronto	11	15	.423	3 1/2

11 innings, susp., rain

N.Y. Yankees 5, Cleveland 2

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Mets, ppd., Rain

Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 3

Arizona 5, Houston 3

San Francisco 4, Colorado 0

Oakland 14, L.A. Angels 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings Majors

Patriots	9	1
Ol'Aces	9	2
Survivors	9	2
Hustlers I	8	1
Red Sox	8	3
Dragons	8	4
Braves	7	4
Dolphins	6	4
Twins	5	6
Pirates	4	6
Athletics	2	7
Lions	2	7
McDonald's	2	7
Hustlers II	1	7
Dare JPO's	1	8
Suns	0	9

Heo remains top junior netter

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

 Ji Hoon Heo remained the CNMI's top ranked junior netter as he once again ruled the 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.- Marianas Medical Center Junior Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Heo, fresh from his South Korean sortie, cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 crushing of Russell Buenaventura in the finals of the boys' 18-and-under division.

Heo did not lose a set in the entire tournament and only dropped one game in the two-weekend tournament that aims to award points to all junior netters to determine their CNMI rankings.

Only James Camacho managed to win a game in a losing effort against Heo, 0-6, 1-6.

Camacho settled for third place after beating Woo Suk Chang, 8-4. Camacho also won

JON PEREZ
Ji Hoon Heo eyes the ball as he prepares to make a forehand return in this file photo taken in this year's Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament at the American Memorial Park courts.



Hustlers make it anticlimactic

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



With only last night's game left to be played, SaipanCell Hustlers are already assured of the championship of the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League with an 11-game lead over closest pursuer Jonny's Destroyers.

The Hustlers made it official last April 22 when it hacked out a convincing 6-1 victory over Coral Reef Shark Attacks that upped its record to 78-20.

While Jonny's Destroyers kept pace with a similar 6-1 domination of Wild Bill's Sniper last week, it was hoping for a Coral Reef route of the Hustlers as its 67-31 win-loss record is still a long way from overtaking the pacesetters.

A silver lining for Jonny's Destroyers though is its 6-1 win allowed it to overtake erstwhile second-placer Porky's Extremist when the latter only managed to squeak past Len's 5 Bad Boyz, 4-3, two Tuesdays ago.

The near escape gave Porky's Extremist a 66-32 record, a game back of Jonny's Destroyers.

Other results last April 22 saw Wild Wild West (65-33) sweep Godfather's Magas (42-56), USSP Fot- ten Palau (57-41) score a similar 7-0 win over Mr. Wonderful Shooters (46-52), USSP Wat-Ever (44-54) skunk a listless VFW Warriors (18-80), and Perfect Spotter (40-58) score a 6-1 win over Coral Reef Bar- racuda (29-69).

Coral Reef Shark Attack, Len's 5 Bad Boyz, and Wild Bill's Sniper currently sport 56-42, 52-46, and 38-60 records, respectively.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

Sponsors pouring in for 'Run For Ron'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Sponsors have been pouring in for the 5-kilometer "Run For Ron" fundraising event, which races off on May 11 at 6am at Micro Beach inside the American Memorial Park.

The race is a fundraising event for veteran runner Ronald Villafria's scheduled trip to Tokyo, Japan, where he will compete together with lawyer Steve Pixley in the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan race on July 25.

Proceeds of the Sunday fun run would help defray the cost of Villafria's plane ticket for the Japan trip.

Various individuals and companies have donated prizes to help Villafria in his fundraising race. The prizes would be given away on the day of the event. The Top 3 male and female winners will receive special giveaways.

Throwing in their support are Hard Rock Café, Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation, Pacific Islands Club, LBT Appraisal, Saipan Grand Hotel, Auto Glass Pro, Filipino Bikers Association, Marianas Trekking, Capricciosa and Tony Roma's, Johnny's Bar, Godfather's, Jazy Sports Wear Guam, and the *Saipan Tribune*.

The 13 additional sponsors join Pixley, Eli Arago, Ariel Mariano, Susan Espanillo, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Coco's Restaurant, Tan Holdings Legal Department, Shirley's Coffee Shop, CTSI, DFS Galleria, SaipanCell Com-



JON PEREZ
Veteran runner Ronald Villafria, shown here in this file photo from the 2008 Saipan Sportfest, will organize the 5-kilometer "Run For Ron" fundraising event on May 11.

against Andy Nutting, 6-0, 6-1, in Sunday's matches.

Buenaventura defeated Joseph Jang, 6-0, 6-1, to arrange a finals showdown with Heo. Chang downed Calvin Yang, 6-1, 6-2, in the other game on Sunday.

In the boys' 13-and-under division, Christian Miller bested Nathan Nutting in the finals, 6-3, 6-1.

Miller opened up the weekend with a 6-1, 6-4 decision against Jake Lee and was pushed to the limit by Dave Camacho in a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 triumph. He won by walkover against Ron Florencio to become well-rested in the finals.

Nutting scored consecutive wins against B. Song, 6-4, 6-3, brother Lucas, 6-4, 6-0, and Clay McCullough Stearns, 6-0, 6-1, to set up a finals match against Miller.

Miller and Nutting were given first-round byes.

Chris Cajigan continues to dominate the 9-and-under division after scoring a 6-3 win over Collin Ramsey. Cajigan's previous wins were against Michael Jones by walkover and Evzen Pabellon, 6-1.

Pabellon settled for fifth after scoring wins against Carl Dela Cruz, 7-6, Steven Goodwin, 6-0, and Luther Lizama, 6-3.

Saturday sign-up for women's football spring league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

 Registration for the spring season of the Women's Football League will be held on Saturday, May 3, from 9am to 11am at the CPA Field in Dandan.

Female players who have already registered should also be present to attend their first team practices. The cost of registration is \$20 for the whole season.

Women's Football Committee director Francine Sablan said the women's spring season will run from May to early June to accommodate players who will leave the island to spend their summer vacation either in the mainland or in another country.

Games will be played every Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings with the first scheduled match on May 10.

Sablan said female players who saw action last fall have the option to remain in the same team or transfer to another squad. New players will be assigned their team assignments on Saturday.

"All women interested in playing in the league, including returning players or beginners, should attend Saturday's practice which starts at 9am at CPA," said Sablan.

Sablan added the four participating teams from last season would carry the same team name. The four participating teams this season will be led by defending champion Wild Bill's Wild Fire, runner up Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues, Pacific Islands Club Paradise In Cleats, and the Smith's Bella Ballers.

Lindsay Davis and Patty Coleman will remain co-captains of the Wild Fire, while Brenda Schultz and Divya Sharma will be returning co-captains for PIC.

The Spectacular Blues will now be led by new captain Becca "The Wall" Newman,

who is fresh from her impressive goalkeeping duties in the CNMI Women's National team's scoreless draw against Guam in the 2nd Marianas Cup on Saturday.

He said he expects all running enthusiasts on Saipan, who regularly join various races on the island, NMA athletes, and NMIF members will also take part in his five-kilometer fun run.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan Race is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Newman replaced former captain Morgan Rose, who left Saipan recently. The Ballers will also have a new set of captains in the person of National team members Katie Peters and Nikki Gabaldon.

Last season, the Wild Fire scored a 1-0 win over the Spectacular Blues via the golden goal rule in the finals.

For more information, email Sablan at francinergs@yahoo.com.



Heo remains top junior netter

Ji Hoon Heo remained the CNMI's top ranked junior netter as he once again ruled the 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.- Marianas Medical Center Junior Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the American Memorial Park.

27

28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008

Saipan Tribune Sports

Riley resigns as Heat coach, names Spoelstra his replacement

Pat Riley's worst season as coach of the Miami Heat will be his last. The Hall of Famer resigned as coach Monday but remains team president.

24



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Patriots tame Dragons in Majors



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Defending champion SaipanCell Patriots continued with their title push when they scored a 13-0 shutout win over the San Antonio Dragons in Saturday's Majors division match at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Christian Mizer was menacing on the mound as he



was almost untouchable in the game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule. He only needed 50 pitches to give the Patriots their ninth win against one loss to enjoy a half game lead over the second-running Happy Market Ol' Aces.

See PATRIOTS on Page 26

SaipanCell Patriots Chris Mizer throws to the plate in their game against the San Antonio Dragons in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Saturday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ

Matt Buenabajo only scored three points but sank the game-winning shot to help GEC Pawnshop squeeze out a 75-74 win over the Fixers in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League's masters division last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With the Pawnbrokers trailing 72-74 in the final three seconds of the game, the Fixers did not defend the seldom-used Buenabajo thinking his shot would not go in.

But Buenabajo's 3-pointer went through the net stunning the Fixers as the buzzer sounded and celebration erupted at the GEC bench.

The win was the second straight for the Pawnbrokers after suffering a 95-105 loss to Bank of Saipan last April 3.

Amor Casabuena paced GEC with 33 points with Sonny Rañola adding 17 markers.

Bruce Berline led the Fixers with 15 points but shot 31 percent at the free throw line going 5-for-16. Yasu Irinaka and Richard Brostrom, who missed

See BUENABABO on Page 26

69 participants get Red Cross cards

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan concluded its American Red Cross swimming lessons last Saturday with the 69 participants receiving their "certifications."

Club president Stan Good said the swim lessons were an important step in improving the water safety awareness of the people on Saipan.

"Being that we all live on an island, water safety is very important for

Saipan. Every weekend residents flock to the beaches to enjoy the water, go fishing, and participate in other water activities. Several parents and grandparents stated they are taking the lessons to be able to enjoy the water with their children and grandchildren and in case a problem arises, rescue the children from water-related accidents. Each year unnecessary drownings occur that could be avoided if the person had a knowledge of swimming basics," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Good said the 60-plus participants were "great" and the community response was overwhelming, "as we have 50 people on a standby list for the

next session."

He said each of the participants received a Red Cross card indicating their level of swimming expertise. Good said the cards ranged from one to seven—one being a beginner and seven being very proficient in all four strokes.

"Tsunami Saipan would like to thank the community for their support for the lessons, a special thanks also go out to Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan management for allowing the use of their pool for an hour each Saturday. And none of the lessons would have been possible without the support of the American Red Cross, CNMI Chapter," he added.

See 69 on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan coaches pose with participants during the final day of their American Red Cross swim lessons last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

NMIFA opens HQ at TSL



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, center, is joined by, from left, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White, NMIFA secretary general Wes Bogdan, Guam Football Association president Richard K. Lai, East Asian Football Federation secretary general Takeo Oda, and GFA treasurer George Lai, in the ribbon cutting ceremony of NMIFA's office on Saturday at the TSL building in Garapan.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association finally inaugurated its new home as officials of the local sports organization continued their push to develop the sport in the CNMI.

NMIFA opened its office last Saturday at 7pm with officials from the East Asian Football Federation, Guam Football Association, and local government, business, and sports chiefs in full at-

RELATED NEWS

Saturday sign-up for women's football spring league.
PAGE 27

tendance as they joined NMIFA officers in the office blessing.

The third floor of the newly built TSL building in Garapan will be NMIFA's new headquarters on Saipan as they finally vacated their old office at the Marianas Visitors Authority.

One thing that would strike local and visiting football fans is the office's interior with Germany's Olympiastadion serving as the wallpaper.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan said his friend took the photo that was used for the wallpaper during the 2006 World Cup Final between

See NMIFA on Page 26